NASHES

Lenten Stuffe,

L.C.Z.6

Containing,

The Deſcription and firſt Procrea-
tion and Increaſe of the towne of
Great Yarmouth in
Norffolke:

With a new Play neuer played before, of the
praiſe of the RED
HERRING.

Fitte of all Clearkes of Noblemens Kitchins to be read: and not vnneceſſary by all Seruing men that haue ſhort boord-wages, to be remembred.

Famam peto per vndas.

LONDON
Printed for N. L. and C. B. and are to be
ſold at the weſt end of Paules.
1599.

To his worthie good patron, Luſtie *Humfrey, according as the townſ-*men doo chriſten him, little Numps as the Nobilitie and Courtiers do name him, and Honeſt *Humfrey, as all his friendes and acquaintance eſteeme* him, King of the Tobacconiſts *hic & vbique*, and a ſingu-*lar Mecœnas to the Pipe and the Tabour* (*as his patient* liuery attendant can witneſſe) his bounden Orator T. N. moſt proſtrately offers vp this tribute of inke and paper.

Oſt courteous vnlearned lo-uer of Poetry, and yet a Po-et thy ſelfe, of no leſſe price then H. S. that in honour of Maid-marrian gines ſweete Margerã for his Empreſſe, and puttes the Sowe moſt ſawcily vppon ſome great perſonage, what euer ſhe bee, bidding her (*as it runnes in the old ſong*) Go from my Garden go, for there no flowers for thee dooth grow. *Theſe be to notifie to your diminutiue excelſitude, and compends-ate greatneſſe, what my zeale is towardes you, that in no ſtreigh-ter bonds woulde bee pounded and enliſted, then in an Epiſtle Dedicatorie. Too many more luſty blond* Brauamente ſegniors, *with* Cales *beards, as bronde as ſcullers maples, that they make*

cleane their boates with, could I haue turned it ouer, and had nothing for my labour., ſome faire woords except, of, good ſir will it pleaſe you to come neere, and drinke a cuppe of wine? after my returne from Ireland *I doubt not but my fortunes will be of ſome growth to requite you In the meane time my ſword is at your commaund; and before God, money ſo ſcatteringly runnes heere and there vppon* vtenſilia, *furnitures, ancients, and other neceſſary preparations, (and which is a double charge, looke how much Tobacco wee carry with vs to expell cold, the like quantitie of Staues-aker wee muſt prouide vs of to kill lice in that rugged countrey of rebels) that I ſay vnto you in the word of a martialiſt, wee cannot doo as wee would. I am no incredulous* Didimus, *but haue more fayth to beleeue they haue no coyne, then they haue meanes to ſupplie themſelues with it and ſo leaue them. To any other carpet-munger or primeroſe knight of Primero, bring I a dedication and the dice ouer night haue not befriended him hee ſleepes fiue dayes and fiue nights to new skin his beautie, and will not bee knowne hee is awakt till his men vppon their owne bondes (a diſmall world for trenchermen, when theyr maiſters bond ſhal not be ſo good as theirs) haue tooke vp commodities or freſh droppings of the minte for him : ana then; what then? he pares for the ten dozen of balles hee left vppon the ſcore at the tennis court, hee ſendes for his Barber to depure, decurtate, and punge him, whome hauing not paide a twelmonth before, he now raines downe eight quarter angels into his hande, to make his liberalitie ſeeme greater, and giues him a caſt riding ierkin, and an olde Spaniſh hatte into the bargaine, and Gods peace bee with him. The chamber is not ridde of the ſmell of his feet, but the greaſie ſhoomaker with his ſquirrels skin, and a whole ſtall of ware vppon his arme enters, and wrencheth his legges for an houre together, and after ſhewes his tally. By S.* Loy *that drawes deepe, and by that time his Tobacco marchant is made euen with, and hee hath dinde at a tauerne, and ſlept his vnder-meale at a bawdy houſe, his purſe is on the heild and only fortie ſhillings hee hath behinde, to trie his fortune with at the cardes in the preſence, which if it proſper,*

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the court cannot containe him, but to London *againe he will, to reuell it and haue two playes in one night, inuite all the Poets and Musitions to his chamber the next morning, where against theyr comming, a whole heape of money shall bee bespread vppon the boord, and all his trunkes opened to shewe his rich sutes, but the deuill a whit hee bestowes on them, saue bottle ale and Tobacco: and desires a generall meeting.*

The particular of it is, that bounty is bankerupt, and Lady sensualitie licks all the fat frō the seuen Liberal Sciences, that Poetry, if it were not a trick to please, my Lady would bee excluded out of Christian buriall, and in steade of wreathes of lawrell to crowne it with haue a bell with a cocks combe clapt on the crowne of it by olde Iohannes de Indagines, *and his quire of dorbellists. Wherefore the premisses considered (I pray you consider of that woord Premisses, for somewhere I haue borrowed it) neither to rich, noble, right worshipfull, or worshipfull, of spirituall or temporall, will I consecrate this woorke, but to thee and thy capering humour alone, that if thy starres had doone thee right, they should haue made thee one of the mightiest princes of* Germany, *not for thou canst driue a coach or kill an oxe so wel as they, but that thou art neuer wel, but when thou art amongst the retinue of the Muses, and there spendest more in the twinckling of an eye, then in a whole yeare thou getteste by some grasierly gentilitie thou followest. A King thou art by name, and a King of good fellowshippe by nature, whereby I ominate this Encomion of the king of fishes was predestinate to thee from thy swadling clothes. Hugge it, ingle it, kisse it, and cull it now thou hast it, & renounce eating of greene beefe and garlike, till Martlemas, if it be not the next stile to* The strife of Loue in a Dreame, *or, the* Lamentable burning of Teuerton. *Giue mee good words I beseech thee though thou giuest me nothing else, and thy words shal stand for thy deeds, which I will take as well in woorth, as if they were the deedes and euidences of all the lande thou hast. Heere I bring you a redde herring, if you will finde drinke to it, there an ende, no other detriments will I putte you to. Let the Kanne of strong ale your*

conſtable, with the toaſte his browne bill, and ſugar and nutmegs his watchmen ſtande in a readineſſe, to entertaine mee euerie time I come by your lodging. In Ruſcia *there are no preſents but of meate or drinke; I preſent you with meate, and you in honourable courteſie to requite mee, can do no leſſe then preſent mee with the beſt mornings draught of merry-go-downe in your quarters, and ſo I kiſſe the ſhadow of your feetes ſhadow, amiable Donſell, expecting your ſacred Poeme of the* Hermites Tale, *that will reſtore the golden age amongſt vs, and ſo vppon my ſoules knees, I take myleaue.*

Yours for a whole laſt of redde Herrings.

Th. Naſbe.

To his Readers, hee cares not *what they be.*

Aſhes Lentenſtuffe : and why *Naſhes Lentenſtuffe?* ſome ſcabbed ſcald ſquire replies, becauſe I had money lent me at *Yarmouth*, and I pay them againe in prayſe of their towne and the redde herring, and if it were ſo goodman Pig-wiggen, were not that honeſt dealing, pay thou al thy debtes ſo if thou canſt for thy life, but thou art a Ninnihammer: that is not it, therefore *Nickneacane* I cal it *Naſhes Lenten-ſtuffe*, as well for it was moſt of my ſtudy the laſt Lent, as that we vſe ſo to term any fiſh that takes ſalt, of which the Red Herring is one the apteſt. O but ſayth another *Iohn Dringle*, there is a booke of the *Red Herrings taile* printed foure Termes ſince, that made this ſtale. Let it be a taile of habberdine if it will, I am nothing entaild thereunto, I ſcorne it, I ſcorne it, that my woorkes ſhould turne taile to any man. Head, body, taile and all of a redde Herring you ſhall haue of mee, if that will pleaſe you or if that will not pleaſe you, ſtay till Eſter Terme and then with the anſwere to the *Trim Tram*, I will make you laugh your hearts out. Take me at my woord, for I am the man that will doo it. This is a light friskin of my witte, like the prayſe of iniuſtice, the feuer quartaine, *Buſiris* or *Phalaris*, wherin I follow the trace of the famouſeſt ſchollers of all ages, whom

whom a wantonizing humour once in their life time hath poſſeſt to play with ſtrawes, and turne mole-hils into mountaines.

Euery man can ſay Bee to a Battledore, and write in prayſe of Vertue, and the ſeuen Liberall Sciences, threſh corne out of the full ſheaues, and fetch water out of the Thames; but out of drie ſtubble to make an after harueſt, and a plentifull croppe without ſowing, and wring iuice out of a flint, thats *Pierce a Gods name*, and the right tricke of a workman. Let me ſpeake to you about my huge woords which I vſe in this booke, and then you are your own men to do what you liſt. Know it is my true vaine to be *tragicus Orator*, and of all ſtiles I moſt affect & ſtriue to imitate *Aretines*, not caring for this demure ſoft *mediocre genus*, that is, like water and wine mixt together, but giue me pure wine of it ſelf, & that begets good bloud, and heates the brain thorowly: I had as lieue haue no ſunne, as haue it ſhine faintly, no fire, as a ſmothering fire of ſmall coales, no cloathes, rather then weare linſey wolſey. Apply it for me, for I am cald away to correct the faults of the preſſe, that eſcaped in my abſence from the Printing-houſe.

THE PRAISE OF the red herring.

THe ſtraunge turning of the Ile of Dogs, frō a commedie to a tragedie two ſummers paſt, with the troubleſome ſtir which hapned aboute it, is a generall rumour that hath filled all England, and ſuch a heauie croſſe laide vpon me, as had well neere confounded mee: I meane, not ſo much in that it ſequeſtred me from the woonted meanes of my maintenance, which is as great a maime to any mans happineſſe, as can bee feared from the hands of miſerie, or the deepe pit of diſpaire wherinto I was falne, beyond my greateſt friendes reach to recouer mee: but that in my exile and irkeſome diſcontented abandonment, the ſillieſt millers thombe, or contemptible ſtickle-banck of my enemies, is as buſie nibbling about my fame, as if I were a deade man throwne amongeſt them to feede vpon. So I am I confeſſe in the worldes outwarde apparance, though perhappes I may prooue a cunninger diuer then they are aware, which if it ſo happen as I am partely aſſured, and that I plunge aboue water once againe, let them looke to it, for I will put them in bryne, or a piteous pickle euery one. But let that paſſe, though they ſhal find I wil not let it paſſe when time ſerues, I hauing a pamphlet hot a brooding that ſhall be called the

Quaſſa tamen noſtra eſt, non merſa nec obrutunauis.

Barbers warming panne, and to the occasion, a fresh of my falling in alliance with this lenten argument. That infortunate imperfit Embrion of my idle houres the Ile of Dogs before mentioned, breeding vnto me such bitter throwes in the teaming as it did, and the tempestes that arose at his birth, so astonishing outragious and violent as if my braine had bene conceiued of another Hercules, I was so terrifyed with my owne encrease (like a woman long trauailing to bee deliuered of a monster) that it was no sooner borne but I was glad to run from it. Too inconsiderate headlong rashnesse this may be censured in me, in beeing thus prodigall in aduantaging my aduersaries, but my case is no smoothred secret, and with light cost of rough cast rethorieke it may be tollerablely playstered ouer, if vnder the pardon and priuiledge of incensed higher powers it were lawfully indulgenst me freely to aduocate my owne astrology. Sufficeth what they in their graue wisedoomes shall proscribe, I in no sorte will seeke to acquite, nor presumptuously attempte to dispute against the equity of their iudgementes, but humble and prostrate appeale to their mercies. Auoide or giue grounde I did, *scriptum est* I will not goe from it, and *post varios casus*, variable Knight arrant aduentures, and outroades, and inroades, at greate Yarmouth in Norfolke, I ariued in the latter ende of Autumne. Where hauing scarse lookt about me, my presaging minde saide to it selfe, *Hic fanonius serenus est, hic auster imbricus*, this is a predestinate fit place for *Pierse Pennilesse* to set vp his staffe in. Therein not much diameter to my deuining hopes did the euent sort it selfe, for sixe weekes first and last vnder that predodumant constellation of *Aquarius* or *Ioues Nectar* filler, tooke I vp my repose, and there mette with such kind entertainment and benigne hospitality when I was *Una litera plusquam* * *medicus* as Plautus saith, and not able to line to my selfe with my owne iuice, as some of the crummes of it like the crums in a bushy beard after a greate banquet, will remaine in my papers to bee seene when I am dead

* An imperfit Embrio I ma well call it, for I hauing begun but the induction and first act of it, the other foure acts without my consent, or the least gueste of my drift or scope, by the players were supplied, which bred both their trouble and mine to.

* Medicus.

deade and vnder ground; from the bare perusing of which infinite posterities of hungry Poets shall receiue good refreshing, euen as *Homer* by *Galataon* was pictured vomiting in a baso (in the temple that *Ptolomy Philopater* erected to him) and the rest of the succeeding Poets after him, greedily lapping vp what he disgorged. That good old blind bibber of *Helicon* I wot well, came a begging to one of the chiefe cities of Greece, & promised them vast corpulent volumes of immortallity, if they would bestowe vpon him but a slender outbrothers annuity of mutto & broth, and a pallet to sleep on, and with derision they reiected him, wherupon he went to their enemies with the like proffer, who vsed him honourably, and whome hee vsed so honourably, that to this daye though it be three thousand yeare since, their name and glorie floriſh greene in mens memory through his industry. I truste you make no question but those dull pated pennifathers, that in such dudgen scorne reiected him, drunck deep of the soure cup of repentance for it, when the high flight of his lines in common brute was ooyessed. Yea in the worde of one no more wealthy then hee was, wealthy saide I, nay I'le beſworne hee was a grande iurie man in respect of me, those graybeard Huddle-duddles and crusty cum-twangs, were strooke with such stinging remorse of their miserable Euclioniſme and sundgery, that hee was not yet cold in his graue but they challenged him to be borne amongst them, and they and sixe citties more, entred a sharpe warre aboute it, euery one of them laying claime to him as their owne, and to this effect hath Bucchanan an Epigram.

Vrbes certarunt septem de patria Homeri,
Nulla domus viuo patria nulla fuit.

Seauen citties stroaue whence *Homer* first shoulde come
When liuing, he no country had nor home.

I alleadge this tale to shewe howe much better my lacke

then *Homers* (though all the King of Spaines Indies will not create me ſuch a nigling Hexameter-founder as he was) in the firſt proclayming of my banke-rout indigence and beggery, to bende my courſe to ſuch a curteous compaſſionate clime as Yarmouth, and to warne others that aduaunce their heades aboue all others, and haue not reſpected, but rather flatly oppoſed themſelues againſt the Frier medicants of our profeſſion, what their amercements and vnreprieueable pennance will be, excepte they teare ope their oyſtermouthd pouches quickly, and make double amendes for their parſimony. I am no *Tireſias* or *Calchas* to prophecie, but yet I cannot tell, there may bee more reſounding bel-mettall in my pen then I am aware, and if there bee, the firſt peale of it is Yarmouthes. For a patterne or tiny-ſample what my elaborate performance would bee in this caſe, had I a ful-ſayld gale of proſperity to encourage mee, whereas at the diſhumored compoſing hereof may iuſtly complaine with *Ouid.*

Anchora iam noſtram non tenet vlla ratem.

My ſtate is ſo toſt and weather-beaten that it hath nowe no anchor-holde left to cleaue vnto. I care not, if in a dimme farre of launce-ſkippe, I take the paines to deſcribe this ſuperimente principall Metropolis of the redde Fiſh. A towne it is that in rich ſituation exceedeth many citties, and without the which, *Caput gentis*, the ſwelling Battlementes of Gurguntus, a head citty of Norffolke, and Suffolke, would ſcarce retaine the name of a Citty; but become as ruinous and deſolate as Thetforde or Ely: out of an hill or heape of ſande, reared and enforced from the ſea moſt miraculouſly, and by the ſingular pollicy and vnceſſant ineſtimable expence of the Inhabitantes, ſo firmely piled and rampierd againſt the furiiſh waues battry, or ſuyng the leaſte action of recouerie, that it is more coniecturall of the twaine, the land with a writ of a *Eiectione firma* wil get the vpperhande of the Ocean, then the Ocean one crowes ſkip preuaile againſt the Continent. Forth of the ſands thus ſtruglingly as it exalteth

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and liftes vp his glittering head. So of the neyboring ſands no leſſe ſemblably (whether in recordation of their worn out affinitie or no, I know not) it is ſo inamorately protected and patronized, that they ſtand as a trench or guarde about it in the night, to keep off their enemies. Now in that drowſie empire of the pale-fac't Queene of ſhades, malgre letting driue vpon their Barricadoes, or impetuouſly contending to breake through their chaine or barre, but they entombe and baliſt with ſodaine deſtruction. In this tranſcurſiue reportory without ſome obſeruant glaunce, I may not dully ouerpaſſe the gallant beauty of their hauen, which hauing but as it were a welte of land, or as M. Camden cals it, *lingulam terræ*, a little tong of the earth betwixte it and the wide Maine, ſticks not to mannage armes, and hold his owne vndefeaſably againſt that vniuerſall vnbounded empery of ſurges, and ſo hath done for this hundreth yeere. Two mile in length it ſtretched his winding current, and then meetes with a ſpatious riuer or backwater that feedes it. A narrow channell or *Iſthmus* in raſh view you woulde opinionate it: when this I can deuoutly auerre, I beholding it with both my eies this laſt fiſhing, ſixe hundreth reaſonable barkes and veſſelles of good burden (with a vantage) it hath giuen ſhelter to at once in her harbour, and moſt of them riding abreſt before the Key betwixt the Bridge and the Southgate. Many bows length beyond the marke, my penne roues not I am certain, if I doe, they ſtand at my elbow that can correct mee. The delectableſt luſtie ſight and mouingeſt obiect, me thought it was that our Ile ſets forth, and nothng behinde in number with the inuincible *Spaniſh Armada*, though they were not ſuch Gargantuan boyſterous gulliguts as they, though ſhips and galeaſſes they would haue beene reckoned in the nauy of K. *Edgar*, who is chronicled & regiſtred with three thouſand ſhips of warre to haue ſcoured the narrow ſeas, and ſailed round about England euery Summer. That which eſpecialleſt nouriſht the moſt prime pleaſure in me, was after a

ſtorme when they were driuen in ſwarmes, and lay cloſe peſtred together as thicke as they could packe; the next day following, if it were faire, they would cloud the whole skie with canuas, by ſpreading their drabled ſailes in the full clue abroad a drying, and make a brauer ſhew with them, then ſo many banners and ſtreamers diſplayed againſt the Sunne on a mountaine top. But how Yarmouth of it ſelfe ſo innumerable populous and repleniſhed, and in ſo barraine a plot ſeated, ſhould not onely ſupply her inhabitants with plentifull purueyance of ſuſtenance, but prouant and victuall moreouer this monſtrous army of ſtrangers, was a matter that egregiouſly bepuzled and entranced my apprehenſion. Hollanders, Zelanders, Scots, French, Welterne men, Northren men, beſides all the hundreds and wapentakes nine miles compaſſe, fetch the beſt of their viands and mangery from her market. For ten weeks together this rabble rout of outlandiſhers are billetted with her, yet in all that while the rate of no kinde of food is raiſed, nor the plenty of their markets one pinte of butter rebated, aud at the ten weekes end, when the campe is broken vp, no impreſſion of any dearth left, but rather more ſtore then before. Some of the towne dwellers haue ſo large an opinion of their ſetled prouiſion, that if all her Maieſties fleet at once ſhould put into their bay, within twelue dayes warning with ſo much double beere, beefe, fiſh and bisket they would bulke them as they could wallow away with.

Here I could breake out into a boundleſſe race of oratory, in ſhrill trumpetting and concelebrating the royall magnificence of her gouernement, that for ſtate and ſtrict ciuill ordering, ſcant admitteth any riuals: but I feare it would be a theame diſpleaſant to the graue modeſty of the diſcreet preſent magiſtrates; and therefore conſultiuely I ouerſlip it, howſoeuer I purpoſe not in the like nice reſpect to leape ouer the laudable petigree of Yarmouth, but will fetch her from her ſwadling clouts or infancy, & reueale to you when

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and by whom ſhe was firſt raught out of the oceans armes, and ſtart vp and aſpired to ſuch ſtarry ſublimitie, as alſo acquaint you with the notable immunities, franchiſes, priuileges ſhe is endowed with beyond all het confiners, by the diſcentine line of kings from the conqueſt.

There be of you it may be, that will account me a paltrer, for hanging out the ſigne of the redde Herring in my title page, and no ſuch feaſt towards for ought you can ſee. Soft and faire my maſters, you muſt walke and talke before dinner an houre or two, the better to whet your appetites to taſte of ſuch a dainty diſh as the redde Herring, and that you may not thinke the time tedious, I care not if I beare you company, and leade you a ſound walke round about Yarmouth, and ſhew you the length and bredth of it.

The maſters and batchellours commenſement dinners at Cambridge and Oxford, are betwixt three and foure in the afternoone, & the reſt of the antecedence of the day worne out in diſputations: imagine this the act or commenſement of the red Herring, that proceedeth batcheler, maſter & doctor all at once, & therefore his diſputations muſt be longer. But to the point, may it pleaſe the whole generation of my auditours to be aduertiſed, how that noble earth where the town of great Yarmouth is now mounted, & where ſo much fiſh is ſold, in the dayes of yore, hath bin the place where you might haue catch fiſh, & as plaine a ſea within this 600. yere as any bote could tumble in, & ſo was the whole leuill of the Marſhes betwixt it and Norwich. *An. Do.* 1000. or thereabouts (as I haue ſcrapt out of wormeaten Parchment) and in the Raigne of *Canutus*, hee that dyed drunke at Lambeth or Lome-hith, ſomewhat before, or ſomewhat after, not a prenticeſhip of yeares varying: *Caput extulit vndis*, the ſands ſet vp ſhop for themſelues, and from that moment to this ſextine centurie (or let me not be taken with a lye, fiue hundred nintie eight, that wants but a paire of yeares to make me a true man) they would no more liue vnder the

yoke of the Sea, or haue their heads waſht with his bubbly ſpume or Barbers balderdaſh, but clearely quitted, diſterminated and relegated themſelues from his inflated Capriciouſneſſe of playing the Dictator ouer them.

The Northerne winde was the clanging trumpetter, who with the terrible blaſt of his throate, in one yeallow heape or plumpe cluſtred or congeſted them togither, euen as the Weſterne gales in Holland right ouer againſt them, haue wrought vnruly hauocke, and threſht and ſwept the ſandes ſo before them, that they haue choakt or clamd vp the middle walke or dore of the *Rhene*, and made it as ſtable a clod-mould, or turffe ground, as any hedger can driue ſtake in. Caſtter two mile diſtant from this new Yarmouth we intreate of, is inſcribed to be that olde Yarmouth, wherof there are ſpecialties to be ſeene in the oldeſt writers, and yet ſome viſible apparant tokens remaine of a hauen that ran vp to it, and there had his entrance into the ſea, by aged Fiſhermen commonly tearmed *Grubs Hauen*) though now it be graueld vp, and the ſtreame or tyde-gate turned another way. But this is moſt warrantable, the *Alpha* of all the Yarmouths it was, & not the *Omega* correſpondently, & frō her withered roote they branch the high aſcent of their genealogie. *Omnium rerum viciſſitudo eſt*, ones falling, is anothers riſing, and ſo fell it out with that ruind Dorpe or hamlet, which after it had relapſt into the Lordes handes for want of reparations, and there were not men enough in it to defend the ſhore from inuaſion, one *Cerdicus* a Plaſhing Saxon, that had reueld here and there with his battleaxe, on the bordring bankes of the decrepite ouerworne village now ſurnamed *Gorlſtone* threw forth his anchor, and with the aſſiſtance of his ſpeare, in ſtead of a pikeſtaffe, leapt agroūd like a ſturdie bruite, and his yeomen bolde caſt their heeles in their necke, and friskt it after him, and thence ſprouteth that obſcene appellation of *Sarding ſandes*, with the draffe of the

the carterly Hoblobs thereabouts, concoct or disgeast for a scripture, verity, when the right christendome of it, is Cerdicke sands, or Cerdick shore, of Cerdicus so denominated, who was the first maylord or captaine of the morris daunce that on those embenched shelues stampt his footing where cods & dogfish swomme not a warp of weeks forerunning) & til he had giuen the onset they balkt thē as quicksands. By and by after his iumping vppon them, the Saxons for that *Garianonum*, or Yarmoth that had giuen vp the ghost, in those slymie plashie fieldes of Gorlstone trowled vp a second Yarmouth, abutting on the West side of the shore of this great Yarmouth, that is, but feeling the ayre to be vnholsome and disagreeing with them, to the ouerwhart brink or verge of the flud, that writ all one stile of Cerdicke sands, they dislodged with bagge and baggage, and there layde the foundatiō of a third Yarmouth *Quam nulla potest abolere vetustas*, that I hope will holde vp her head till Doomesday. In this Yarmouth as Master *Camden* saith, there were seauentie inhabitants, or housholders, that payed scot and lot in the time of *Edward* the Confessor, but a Chronographycal Latine table, which they haue hanging vp in their Guild hall, of all their transmutations from their Cradlehoode, infringeth this a little, and flatters her, shee is a great deale yonger, in a faire text hand texting vnto vs, how in the Scepterdome of *Edward* the Confessor, the sands first began to growe into sight at a low water, and more sholder at the mouth of the ryuer *Hirus* or *Ierus*, whereupon it was dubbed Iernmouth or Yarmouth, and then there were two Channels, one on the North, another on the South, where through the fisher-men did wander and wauer vp to Norwitch, and diuers parts of Suffolke and Norfolke, all the fennie Lerna betwixt, that with Reede is so imbristled, being (as I haue foresposke or spoken to fore) *Madona*, *Amphitrite*, fluctuous demeans or fee simple.

From the Citie of Norwich on the East part, it is sixteene

mile diſiunct, and diſlocated, and though betwixt the Sea and the ſalt flud it be interpoſed, yet in no place about it can you digge ſixe foote deepe, but you ſhall haue a guſhing ſpring of freſh or ſweete water for all vſes, as apt and accommodate, as Saint Winifrides Well, or Towre-hill water at London, ſo much praiſed and ſought after. My Tables are not yet one quarter emptied of my notes out of their Table, which becauſe it is, as it were a Sea Rutter diligently kept amongſt them from age to age, of all their ebbs and flowes, and winds that blew with or againſt them, I tie my ſelfe to more preciſely, and thus it leadeth on.

In the time of King *Herrolde* and *William* the Conqueour, this ſand of Yarmouth grew to a ſetled lumpe, and was as drie as the ſands of Arabia, ſo that thronging theaters of people (as well Aliens as Engliſhmen) hiued thither about the ſelling of fiſh and Herring, from Saint Michael to Saint Martin, and there built ſutlers booths and tabernacles, to canopie their heads in from the rhewme of the heauens, or the clouds diſſoluing Cataracts. King *William Rufus* hauing got the Golden wreath about his head, one *Herbertus* Biſhop of the ſea of Norwich, hearing of the gangs of good fellowes, that hurtled and buſtled thither, as thicke as it had beene to the ſhrine of Saint *Thomas* a *Becket*, or our Ladie of Walſingham, builded a certaine Chappell there for the ſeruice of God, and ſaluation of ſoules.

In the raigne of King *Henrie* the firſt, King *Steuen*, King *Henrie* the ſecond, and *Richard de corde Lyon*, the apoſtacie of the ſands from the yalping world was ſo great, that they ioynd themſelues to the maine land of Eaſtflege, and whole tribes of males and females, trotted bargd it thither to build and enhabite, which the ſaide Kinges whiles they weilded their ſwords temporall animaduertiſed of, aſſigned a ruler or gouernour ouer them, that was called the Kings prouoſt, and that manner of prouoſtſhip or gouernment remained in full force and vertue all their fowre Throneſhips,

Alias

Alias a hundred yeare, euen till the inauguration of King *Iohn*, in whose dayes the forewritten-of Bishop of Norwich, seeing the numbrous increase of soules of both kindes that there had framd their nests, and meant not to forsake them till the soule Bell towld them thence, puld downe his Chappell, and what by himself e and the deuout oblations and douatines of the fishermen vpon euery returne with their nets full, reedifide and raysed it to a Church of that magnitude, as vnder ministers and Cathedrals verie queasie it admits any haylefellow well met, and the Church of Saint Nicholas he hallowed it, whence Yarmuoth roade is nicknamed the Roade of Saint Nicholas. King *Iohn* to comply and keep consort with his aunceſtors in furthring of this new waterworke, in the ninth yeare of the engirting his annoynted browes with the refulgent Ophir circle, and Anno 1209. set a fresh glosse vppon it, of the towne or free burrough of Yarmouth, and furnisht it with many substantial priuiledges and liberties, to haue and to holde the same of him, and his race, for fifty fiue pound yearely. In *Anno 1240.* it percht vp to be gouernd by balies, and in a narrower limmitte then the forty yeares vndermeale of the seauen sleepers, it had so much towe to her distaffe and was so well lined and bumbasted, that in a sea battell her shippes and men conflicted the cinque ports, and therein so laid about them, that they burnt, tooke, and spoyled the most of them, whereof such of them as were sure flights, (sauing a reuerence of their manhoods) ranne crying and complayning to King *Henry* the second, who with the aduice of his counsaile, set a fine of a thousand pound on the Yarmouth mens heads for that offence, which fine in the tenth of his reigne hee dispenc't with and pardoned.

Edward the first, and Edward the second likewise, let them lacke for no priuiledges, changing it from a burrough to a porte towne, and there setting vp a custome house with the appurtenances for the loading and vnloading of shlps.

Henry the third in the fortieth of his empery cheard vp their blouds with two charters more, and in *Anno 1262.* and forty fiue of his courte keeping, hee permitted them to wall in their towne and moate it about with a broade ditch, and to haue a prison or iaile in it. In the swindge of his trident hee constituted two Lord admirals ouer the whole nauy of England, which he disposed in two partes, the one to beare sway from the thames mouth Northwarde, called the Northren nauy, the other to shape his course from the thames mouth to the westwarde termed the westerne nauy, and ouer this northren nauy, for admirall commissionated one Iohn Peerbrowne burgesse of the towne of Yarmouth, and ouer the westerne nauy one Sir Robert Laburnus knight.

But Peerebrowne did not only hold his office all the time of that king doeing plausible seruice, but was againe Readmirald by Edward the third and so died; in the fourteenth of whose raigne he mette with the french Kinges nauy beeing foure-hundred saile, neere to the hauen of *Sluse*, and there so slic't and slasht them & tore their plancks to mammocks and their leane guttes to kites meate, that their best mercy was fire & water which hath no mercie, and not a victuelar or a drumbler of them hanging in the winde aloofe, but was rib-roasted or had some of his ribbes crusht with their stondarting engines, no ordinance then beeing inuented. This Edward the thirde of his propensiue minde towardes them, vnited to Yarmouth Kirtley roade, from it seauen mile vacant, and sowing in the furrowes that his predecessours had entred, hayned the price of their priuiledges & not brought them downe one barley kirnell.

Richard the second vpon a discorde twixt Leystofe and Yarmouth, after diuerse law-dayes and arbitrarie mandates to the counties of Suffolke and Norfolke directed about it. in proper person 1385. came to Yarmouth and in his parliamente the yeare ensuing, confirmed vnto it the liberties of Kirtley roade, (the onely motiue of all their contention).

Henrie

Henrie the fifth or the fifth of the Henries that ruled ouer vs, abridged them not amite of their purchaſt prerogatiues, but permitted them to builde a bridge ouer their hauen and ayded and furthered them in it. Henry the ſixth, Edward the fourth, Henry the ſeauenth and King Henry the eight, with his daughters Queene Mary and our *Clara deum ſoboles* Queene Elizabeth, haue not withred vp their handes in ſigning and ſubſcribing to their requeſts, but our virgin rectoreſſe moſt of al, hath ſhoured downe her bounty vpon them, graunting them greater graunts then euer they had, beſides by-matters of the clarke of the marketſhippe, and many other beneuolences towardes the reparation of their porte. This and euery towne hath his backewinters or froſtes that nippe it in the blade (as not the cleareſt ſunne-ſhine but hath his ſhade, and there is a time of ſicknes as well as of health). The backewinter, the froſte biting, the eclipſe, or ſhade, and ſickneſſe of Yarmouth was, a greate ſickneſſe or plague in it 1348, of which in one yeare ſeauen thouſand and fifty people toppled vp their heeles there. The newe building at the weſt ende of the Church was begunne there 1330, which like the imperfit workes of kinges colledge in Cambridge, or Chriſt-church in Oxford haue too coſtly large foundations to be euer finiſhed,

It is thought if the towne had not beene ſo ſcourged and eaten vp by that mortality, out of their owne purſes they woulde haue proceeded with it, but nowe they haue gone a neerer way to the woode, for with wooden galleries in the Church that they haue, and ſtayry degrees of ſeates in them, they make as much roome to ſitte and heare, as a newe weſt end would haue done.

The length and bredth of Yarmouth I promiſed to ſhew you; haue with you, haue with you: but firſt looke wiſtly vpon the walles, which if you marke, make a ſtretcht out quadrangle with the hauen. They are in compaſſe from the

South cheanes to the North cheanes, two thousand one hundreth and fourescore yardes. They haue towres vpon them sixteene: mounts vnderfonging & enflancking them two of olde, now three, which haue their thundring tooles to compell *Deigo Spanyard* to ducke, and strike the winde collicke in his paunch, if he praunce to neere them, and will not vaile to the Queene of England. The compasse about the wall of this new mount is fiue hundreth foot, and in the measure of yards eight score and seuen. The bredth of the foundation nine foot: the depth within ground eleuen. The heighth to the setting thereof fifteene foot, and in bredth at the setting of it, fiue foot thtee inches, and the procerous stature of it (so embailing and girdling in this mount) twentie foot and sixe inches. Gates to let in her friends, and shut out her enemies, Yarmouth hath ten, lanes seuenscore: as for her streets, they are as long as threescore streets in London, and yet they diuide them but into three. Voide ground in the towne from the walles to the houses, and from the houses to the hauen, is not within the verge of my Geometry. The liberties of it on the fresh water one way, as namely from Yarmouth to S. *Toolies* in Beckles water, are ten mile, and from Yarmouth to Hardlie crosse another way, ten mile, and conclusiuely, from Yarmouth to Waybridge in the narrow North water tenne mile; in all which foords or *Meandors*: none can attache, arrest, distresse, but their officers; and if any drowne themselues in them, their Crowners sit vpon them.

I had a crotchet in my head, here to haue giuen the raines to my pen, and run astray thorowout all the coast townes of England, digging vp their dilapidations, and raking out of the dust-heape or charnell house of tenebrous eld, the rotteneſt relique of their monuments, and bright scoured the canker eaten brasse of their first bricklayers and founders, & commented and paralogized on their condition in the present, & in the pretertense, not for any loue or hatred I beare them,

them, but that I would not be ſnibd, or haue it caſt in my diſhe, that therefore I prayſe Yarmouth ſo rantantingly, becauſe I neuer elſewhere bayted my horſe, or tooke my bowe and arrowes and went to bed. Which leeſing (had I bene let alone) I would haue put to bed with a recumbentibus, by vttering, the beſt that with a ſafe conſcience mought be vttred of the beſt, or worſt of them all, and notwithſtanding all at beſt, that tongue could ſpeake, or hart could thinke of them, they ſhould bate me an ace of Yarmouth. Mutch brainetoſſing and breaking of my ſcull it coſt me, but farewell it, and farewel the Baylies of the Cynqueports, whoſe primordiat *Gethneliaca*, was alſo dropping out of my inckhorne, with the ſyluer oare of their barronry by *William* the Conquerour conueyed ouer them at that nicke when hee firmed and rubrickt the Kentiſhmens gauill kinde of the ſonne to inherite at fifteene, and the felony of the father not to draw a foot of land from the ſonne, & amongſt the ſonnes the portion to be equally diſtributed; and if there were no ſonnes, much good doe it the daughters, for they were to ſhare it after the ſame tenure, and might alienate it how they would, either by legacy or bargaine without the conſent of the lord.

To ſhun ſpight, I ſmothered theſe dribblements, & refrained to deſcant how *William* the Conquerour hauing heard the prouerbe of Kent and Chriſtendome, thought he had woonne a countrey as good as all Chriſtendome, when he was enfeofed of Kent, for which, to make it ſure vnto him after he was entailed thereunto, nought they askt they needed to aske twiſe, it being enacted ere the words came out of their mouth. Of that profligated labour, yet my breaſt pants and labours: a whole moneths minde of reuoluing meditation, I raueling out therein (as raueling out ſignifies *Penelopes telam retexere*, the vnweauing of a webbe before wouen and contexted:) It pities me, it pities me, that in cutting of ſo faire a diamond as Yarmouth, I haue not a casket

dusky Coruiſh diamonds by me, and a boxe of muddy foiles the better to ſet it forth. *Vt nemo miſer niſi comparatus, ſic nihil pro mirifico niſi cum aliis conferatur. Cedites ſoli ſtellæ ſcintillantes, ſoli Garrianano cedite reliqua oppida veligera ſedium nanalium ſpeciociſſimo ſed redeo ad vernaculum.*

All Common wealths aſſume their prenominations of their common diuided weale, as where one man hath not too much riches, and another man too much pouertie: Such was *Platos* communitie and *Licurgus*, and the olde Romans lawes, of meaſuring out their fields, their meads, their paſtures & houſes, and meating out to euery one his childes portion. To this *Commune bonum* (or euery horſe his loafe) Yarmouth in propinquity is as the buckle to the thong, and the next finger to the thumbe; not that it is ſibbe or cater-couſins to any mũgrel *Democratia*, in which one is all, & all is one, but that in her as they are not al one ſo one or two there pockets not vp all the peeces, there beeing two hundreth in it worth three hundred pounde a peece, with poundage and ſhillings to the lurtched, ſet a ſide the Bailifes fowre and twentie, and eight and fourtie. Put out mine eye, who can with ſuch another bragge of my Sea towne within two hundred myle of it. But this common good within it ſelfe, is nothing to the common good it communicats to the whole ſtate. Shall I particularize vnto you, *quibus vijs & modis*, how and wherein. There is my hand to, I will doe it, and this is my exordium. A towne of defence it is to the Counties of Suffolke and Norfolke againſt the enemies, (ſo acounted at the firſt graunting of there liberties) and by the naturall ſtrength of the ſituation ſo apparant, being both inuironed with many ſands, and now of late by great charge, much more fortified then in auncient times. All the Realme it profiteth many waies, as by the free Faire of herring chiefly, maintained by the fiſher-men of Yarmouth themſelues, by the great plentie of ſalted fiſh there, not ſo little two yeares paſt as foure hundred thouſand, wherein were imployed about

about foureſcore ſaile of barkes of their owne.

By the furniſhing forth of forty boates for mackerell at the ſpring of the yeare when all thinges are deareſt, which is a great reliefe to all the country thereaboutes, and ſoone after Bardemewe-tyde, a hundred and twenty ſayle of their owne for herrings, and forty ſayle of other ſhips and barkes trading Newe caſtle, the lowe countries and other voyages. Norwitch at her Maieſties comming in progreſſe thither, preſented her with a ſhew of knitters on a high ſtage placed for the nonce, Yarmouth if the like occaſiō were, could clap vp as good a ſhewe of netbrayders, or thoſe that haue no cloathes to wrappe their hides in or breade to put in their mouthes, but what they earne and get by brayding of nets, (not ſo little as two thouſand pound they yearely diſperſing amongſt the poore women and children of the country, for the ſpinning of twine to make them with, beſides the labour of the enhabitauntes in working them) and for a cōmodious greene place neere the ſeaſhoare to mende and drie them, not Salſbury plaine or Newmarket heath (though they haue no vicinity or neighbourhoode with the ſea, or ſcarce with any ditch or pond of freſhwater) may ouerpeere or out crow her, there being aboue fiue thouſand pounds worth of them at a time vppon her dennes a ſunning. A conuenient key within her hauen ſhee hath, for the deliuery of nets and herrings, where you may lie a floate at a lowe water; (I beſeech you doe not ſo in the thames), many ſeruiceable marriners and ſeafaring-men ſhee trayneth vp (but of that in the herring.)

The mariſhes and lower grounds lying vpon the three riuers that vagary vp to her, (comprehending many thouſand acres) by the vigilant preſeruation of their hauen are encreaſed in value more then halfe, which elſe would be a *Mæotis palus*, a meare or lake of Eeles Frogges, and wilde-duckes. The citty of Norwitch (as in the *Preludium* heereof I had a twitch at) fares were the worſe for her, nor would fare ſo wel

if it were not for the fiſhe of all ſortes that ſhee cloyeth her with, and the felowſhip of their hauen into which their three riuers infuſe themſelues, and through which their goods and merchandiſe from beyonde ſeas are keeled vp with ſmall coſt to their very threſholds, and to many good townes on this ſide, and beyond. I woulde be loth to builde a laborinth in the gatehouſe of my booke, for you to looſe your ſelues in, and therefore I ſhred of many thinges, we will but caſt ouer the bill of her charge, and talke a worde or two of her buildings, and breake vp and go to breakefaſt with the red herring. The hauen hath coſt in theſe laſt 28. yeares, ſixe and twenty thouſand two hundred and ſixe and fifty pounde foure ſhillinges and fiue pence. Fortification and poulder ſince *Anno 1587.* two thouſand markes, the ſea-ſeruice in *Anno 1588.* eight hundreth poundes, the Portingale voyage a thouſand pound, the voyage to Cales as much.

It hath loſt by the Dunkerkers a thouſand pound, by the Frenchmen three thouſand, by Wafting eight hundred, by the Spaniardes and other loſſes not rated, at the leaſt three thouſand more. The continuall charge of the Towne in maintenance of their Hauen, fiue hundred pounds a yeare, *Omnibus annis* for euer, the feefarme of the Towne fiftie fiue pound, and fiue pound a yeare aboue for Kirtley Roade. The continuall charge of the bridge ouer the hauen, their walls, and a number of other odde reckonings we deale not with, towards all which they haue not in certaine reuenewes aboue fiftie or three-ſcore pounds a yeare, and that is in houſes. The yearely charge towards the prouiſion of fiſhe for her Maieſtie 1000. pounds, as for arable matters of tillage and husbandrie, and graſing of cattell, their barraine ſands will not beare them, and they get not a beggers noble by one or other of them, but their whole harueſt is by Sea.

It were to be wiſhed that other coaſters were ſo induſtrious as the Yarmouth, in winning the treaſure of fiſh out of thoſe profundities, and then we ſhould haue twentie egges

a penny

a pennie: and it would be as plentifull a world as when Abbies ſtoode: and now if there be any plentifull world, it is in Yarmouth. Her ſumptuous porches and garniſht buildings are ſuch, as no port Towne in our Brittiſh circumference (nay, take ſome porte Cities ouer-plus into the bargaine) may ſuitably ſtake with, or adequate.

By the proportion of the Eaſt ſurpriſed Gades or Cales, diuers haue tried their cunning, to configurate a twinlike image of it, both in the correlatiue analagie of the ſpanbroad rowſe running betwixt, as alſo of the skirt or lappet of earth whereon it ſtands, heerein onely limitting the difference, that the houſes heere are not ſuch flatte cuſtard Crownes at the top as they are. But I for my parte caſt it aſide as two obſcure a Canton, to demonſtrate and take the altitude by ſo *Elizian* a habitation as Yarmouth. Of a bounzing ſidewaſted pariſh in Lancaſhire, we haue a flying voyce diſperſed, where they goe nine mile to Church euery Sunday, but Pariſh for Pariſh throughout Lancaſhire, Cheſhire, or Wingandecoy, both for numbers in groſſe of honeſt houſhoulders, youthfull couragious valiant ſpirites, and ſubſtantiall graue Burgers, Yarmouth ſhall droppe vie with them to the laſt *Edward* groate they are worth. I am poſting to my propoſed ſcope, or elſe I could runne tenne quier of paper out of breath, in further trauerſing her rightes and dignities.

But of that ſtraught I muſt not take in two liberall, in caſe I want ſtowage for my red Herring, which I rely vpon as my wealthieſt loading. Farewell flouriſhing Yarmouth, and be euery day more flouriſhing then other vntill the latter day, whiles I haue my ſence or exiſtence, I will perſiſt in louing thee, and ſo with this abrupt *Poſt ſcript* I leaue thee. I haue not trauaild farre, though conferred with fartheſt trauailers, from our owne Realme, I haue turnd ouer venerable *Bede*, and plenteous beadrowles of frierly annals following on the backe of him. *Polidore Virgill*, *Buccbanan*, *Camdens Brittania* and moſt recordes of friendes, or enemies I haue

ſearcht as concerning the later modell of it, none of the inland partes thereof but I haue traded them as frequently as the middle walke in Poules, or my way to bed euery night, yet for ought I haue read, heard, or ſeene, Yarmouth regall Yarmouth of all maritimall townes that are no more but fiſher townes ſoly raigneth ſance peere.

Not any where is the word ſeuerer practiſed, the preacher reuerentlier obſerued and honoured, iuſtice ſounder miniſtred, and a warlike people peaceablier demeanourd, betwixte this and the *Grand Cathay*, and the ſtrand of *Preſter Iohn*.

Adew adue, tenne thouſand folde delicate paramour of *Neptune*, the nexte yeare my ſtandiſh may haps to addreſſe another voyage vnto thee, if this haue any acceptãce. Now it is high heaking time, and bee the windes neuer ſo eaſterly aduerſe and the tyde fled from vs, wee muſt violently towe and hale in our redoubtable *Sophy* of the floating kingdom of *Piſces*, whome ſo much as by name I ſhoulde not haue acknowledged, had it not beene that I muſed how Yarmouth ſhould be inueſted in ſuch plenty and opulence, conſidering that in M. *Hacklnits* Engliſh diſcoueries, I haue not come in ken of one mizzen maſt of a man of warre bound for the Indies or mediteranean ſternebearer ſente from her *Zenith* or *Meridian*; Mercuriall breſted M. *Harborne* alwaies accepted a rich ſparke of eternity firſt lighted and enkindled at Yarmouth, or there firſt bred and brought forth to ſee the light, who ſince in the hotteſt degrees of *Leo*, hath ecchoing noyſed the name of our Ilande and of Yarmouth ſo *Tritonly* that not an infant of the curtaild skinclipping pagans but talk of London as frequently as of their Prophets tombe at *Mecha*, & as much worſhips or maidenpeace as it were but one ſun that ſhin'd ouer them all. Our firſt embaſſiadour was he to the *Behemoth* of *Conſtantinople*, and as *Moſes* was ſent from the omnipotent God of heauen to perſwade with *Sultan Pharao* to let the children of Iſraell goe, ſo from the prepotent

potent goddeſſe of the earth *Eliza* was hee ſent to ſet free the Engliſh captiues and open vnto vs the paſſage into the redde ſea and *Euphrates*. How impetrable hee was in mollyfying the * adamantineſt tiranny of mankinde, and hourely crucifier of *Ieſus Chriſt* crucifyde & wrooter vp of *Palleſtine* thoſe that be ſcrutinus to pry into, let them reuolue the *Digeſts* of our Engliſh diſcoueries cited vp in the precedence, and be documentized moſt locupleatly. Of him and none but him who in valuation is woorth 18. huge *Argoſees* full of our preſent dated miſhapen childiſh trauailers, haue I took ſent or come in the wind of, that euer Yarmoth vnſhel led or ingendred to weather it on till they loſt the Northſtarre, or ſailed iuſt *Antipodes* againſt vs, nor walking in her ſtreetes ſo many weekes togither could I meete with any of theſe ſwaggering captaines, (captaines that wore a whole antient in a ſcarfe which made them goe heaue ſhouldred it was ſo boyſterous) or huffituftie youthfull ruffling comrades wearing euery one three yeardes of feather in his cap for his miſtris fauour, ſuch as wee ſtumble on at each ſecond ſtep at Plimmouth, Southampton, and Portſmouth, but an eniuerſal marchantly formallity, in habitte, ſpeach, geſtures, though little merchandiſe they beate their heades aboute, Queene Norwitch for that goeing betweene them and home, at length (ô that length of the full pointe ſpoiles me, all gentle readers I beſeech you pardon mee) I fell a communing herupon with a gentleman a familiar of mine, & he eftſoones defined vnto mee that the redde herring was this old *Ticklecob*, or *Magiſter fac totum*, that brought in the red ruddocks and the grummell ſeed as thicke as oatmeale, and made Yarmouth for argent to put dowue the citty of *Argentine*. Doe but conuert ſaid hee the ſlendereſt twinckling reflexe of your eie-ſight to this flinty ringe that engirtes it, theſe towred walles, port-cullizd-gates and gorgeous architectures that condecorate and adorne it, and then perponder of the red herringes priority and preualence, who is the

* The adamãt mollifide with nothing but bloud.

onely vnexhauſtible mine that hath raiſd and begot all this, and minutely to riper maturity foſters and cheriſheth it. The red herring alone it is that counteruailes the burdenſome detrimentes of our hauen, which euery twelue-month deuoures a Iuſtice of peace liuing, in weares and banckes to beate off the ſand and ouerthwart ledging and fencing it in; that defrayes all impoſitions and outwarde payments to her Maieſtie (in which Yarmouth giues not the wall to ſixe, though ſixeteene moath-eaten burgeſſe townes that haue dawbers and thatchers to their Mayors, challenge in parliament the vpper hand of it) and for the vaward or ſubburbes of my narration, that empals our ſage ſenatours or *Ephori*, in princely ſcarlet as pompous oſtentyue as the *Vinti quater* or Lady *Troynonant*; wherefore quoth he if there be in thee any whit of that vnquẽchable ſacred fire of *Appollo* (as al men repute) and that *Minerua* amongeſt the number of her heires hath addopted thee, or thou wilt commend thy muſe to ſempiternity, and haue images and ſtatutes erected to her after her vnſtringed ſilent interment and obſequies, rouze thy ſpirites out of this drowſie lethargy of mellancholly they are drencht in, and wreſt them vp to the moſt outſtretched ayry ſtraine of elocution to chaunt and carroll forth the *Alteza* an excelſitude of this monarchall fluddy *Induperator*.

Very tractable to this lure I was trained, and put him not to the full anniling of me with any ſound hammering perſuaſion, in that at the firſt ſight of the top-gallant towers of Yarmouth, and a weeke before he had broken any of theſe words betwixt his teeth, my muſe was ardently inflamed to do it ſome right, and how to bring it about fitter I knew not, then in the praiſe of the red herring, whoſe proper ſoile and nurſery it is. But this I muſt giue you to wit, how euer I haue tooke it vpon me, that neuer ſince I ſpouted incke, was I of woorſe aptitude to goe thorow with ſuch a mighty March brewage as you expect, or temper you one right cup of that ancient wine of *Falernum* which would laſt fourty yeere, or

conſe-

conſecrate to your fame a perpetuall temple of the Pine-trees of *Ida* which neuer rot. For beſides the loud bellowing prodigious flaw of indignation, ſtird vp againſt me in my abſence and extermination from the vpper region of our celeſtiall regiment, which hath dung mee in a maner downe to the infernall bottome of deſolation, and ſo troubledly bemudded with griefe and care euery cell or organ-pipe of my purer intellectuall faculties, that no more they conſort with any ingenuous playful merriments, of my note-books and all books elſe here in the countrey I am bereaued, whereby I might enamell and hatch ouer this deuice more artificially and maſterly, and attire it in his true orient varniſh and tincture, wherefore heart and good wil, a workman is nothing without his tooles, had I my topickes by me in ſtead of my learned counſell to aſſiſt me, I might haps marſhall my termes in better aray, and beſtow ſuch coſtly coquery on this *Marine magnifico* as you would preferre him before tart and galingale, which *Chaucer* preheminenteſt encomionizeth aboue all iunquetries or confectionaries whatſoeuer.

Now you muſt accept of it as the place ſerues, and in ſtead of comfittes and ſugar to ſtrewe him with, take well in worth a farthing worth of flower to white him ouer and wamble him in, and I hauing no great pieces to diſcharge for his ben-uenue, or welcomming in, with this volley of *Rhapſodies* or ſmall ſhotte, he muſt reſt pacified, and ſo *Ad rem*, ſpurre cutte through thicke and thinne, and enter the triumphall charriot of the red herring.

Homer of rats and frogs hath heroiqut it, other oaten pipers after him in praiſe of the Gnat, the Flea, the Haſill nut, the Graſhopper, the Butterflie, the Parrot, the Popiniay, Phillip ſparrow, and the Cuckowe; the wantonner ſort of them ſing deſcant on their miſtris gloue, her ring, her fanne, her looking glaſſe, her pantofle, and on the ſame iurie, I might impannell *Iohannes Secundus*, with his booke of the

two hundred kinde of leiſes. Phyloſophers come ſneaking in with their paradoxes of pouertie, impriſonment, death, ſickeneſſe, baniſhment, and baldneſſe, and as buſie they are aboute the bee, the ſtorke, the conſtant turtle, the horſe, the dog, the ape, the aſſe, the foxe, and the ferret. Phyſitions deafen our eares with the *Honorificabilitudinitatibus* of their heauenly *Panachæa* their ſoueraigne *Guiacum*, their gliſters, their triacles, their mithridates of fortie ſeuerall poyſons compacted, their bitter *Rubarbe*, and torturing *Stibium*.

The poſterior Italian and Germane cornugraphers, ſticke not to applaude and cannonize vnnaturall ſodomitrie, the ſtrumpet errant, the goute, the ague, the dropſie, the ſciatica, follie, drunckenneſſe, and *ſlouenry*. The *Galli Gallinacei*, or cocking French ſwarme euery piſſing while in their primmer editions, *Imprimeda iour duy*, of the vnſpeakeable healthfull condicibleneſſe of the *Gomorrian* great *Poco*, a *Poco*, their true countriman euery inch of him, the preſcript lawes of *Tennis* or *Balonne* (which is moſt of their gentlemens chiefe liuelyhoodes) the commoditie of hoarſenes, bleare-eyes, ſcabd hams, threed-bare cloakes, potcht eggs, and *Panados*. Amongſt our Engliſh harmonious calinos, one is vp with the excellence of the browne bill and the long bowe, another playes his prizes in print, in driuing it home with all weapons in right of the noble ſcience of defence: a third writes paſſing enamorately, of the nature of white-meates, and iuſtifies it vnder his hand to be bought & ſould euery where, that they exceede *Nectar*, & *Ambroſia*: a fourth comes foorth with ſomething in prayſe of nothing: a fift of an enflamed heale to copperſmithes hal, all to beerimes it of the diuerſitie of red noſes, and the hierarchy of the noſe magnificat. A ſixt, ſweeps behinde the dore all earthly felicities, and makes Bakers maulkins of them, if they ſtand in competencie with a ſtrong dozen of poyntes; marrie they muſt be poyntes of the matter, you muſt conſider, where-

of

of the formoſt codpiſſe poynt is the cranes prouerbe in painted clothes feare God, and obey the king, and the reſt ſome haue tagges, and ſome haue none. A ſeuenth ſettes a *Tobacco* pipe in ſtead of a trumpet to his mouth, and of that diuine drugge proclaimeth miracles. An eygth cappers it vp to the Lheares in commendation of daunſing. A ninth, offers ſacrifice to the goddeſſe *Cloaca*, and diſportes himſelfe very ſchollerly and wittilie aboute the reformation of cloſe ſtooles and houſes of office, and ſpicing and embalming their rancke intrailes, that they ſtincke not. A tenth, ſettes forth remedies of *Toſted turnes* againſt famine.

To theſe I might wedge in *Cornelius* the brabantine, who was felloniouſly ſuſpected in 87. for penning a diſcourſe of Tuftmockados, and a countrey gentleman of my acquaintance who is launching forth a treatiſe as bigge garbd as the french *Academy* of the *Cornucopia* of a cowe and what an aduantageable creature ſhee is, beyonde all the foure footed rablement of *Herbagers* and graſſe champers, day nor night that ſhee can reſt for filing and tampring aboute it) as alſo a ſworne brother of his that ſo bebangeth poore paper in laud of a bag-pudding as a ſwizer would not belieue it. Neither of their *Decads* are yet ſtampt but eare midſummer tearme they will be if their wordes bee ſure payment, and then tell me if our Engliſh ſconſes be not right Sheffield or no.

See the Epiſtle comemndatorie, before M. Samuell Daniels tranſlatiō of the Empreſes of Paulus Iouius.

The application of this whole catalogue of waſt authours is no more but this, *Quot capita tot ſententiæ*, ſo many heades ſo many whirlegigs, and if all theſe haue *Terlery-ginckt* it ſo friuolouſly of they reckt not what I may *Cum gratia & priueligio* pronounce it, that a red herring is wholſeſome in a froſty morning, and rake vp ſome fewe ſcattered ſillables together in the exornation and polliſhing of it. No more excurſions and circumquaques but *Totaliter a appoſitum.*

That Engliſh marchandiſe is moſt precious which no country can be without, if you aſke *Suffolke, Eſſex, Kent, Suſſex, or Lemſter, or Cotſwold*, what marchandiſe that ſhoulde

bee, they will answere you it is the very same which *Polidore Virgill* cals *Verè aureum vellus*, the true golden fleece of our woll and Englisſh cloth and nought elſe, other engrating vpland cormorants will grunt out it is *Grana paradiſi* our grain or corne that is moſt ſought after. The Weſterners and Northerners that it is lead tinne and iron. Butter and cheeſe, butter and cheeſe ſaith the farmer, but frō euery one of theſe I diſſent and wil ſtoutely bide by it, that to trowle in the caſh throughout all nations chriſtendome there is no fellowe to the red herring. The French Spaniſh and Italian haue wool inough of their owne wherof they make cloth to ſerue their turne, though it be ſomewhat courſer then ours. For corne, none of the Eaſt parts but ſurpaſſeth vs, of leade and tinne is the moſt ſcarſity in forraine dominions, and plenty with vs, though they are not vtterly barraine of them. As for iron about *Iſenborough* and other places of *Germany*, they haue quadruple the ſtore that wee haue. As touching butter and cheeſe the *Hollanders* cry by your leaue wee muſt goe before you, and the *Tranſalpiners* with their lordly *Parmaſin*, (ſo named of the citty of *Parma* in Italy where it is firſt clout-cruſhed and made) ſhoulder in for the vpper hand as hotly, when as of our appropriate glory of the red herring, no region twixt the poles articke and antartick may can or will rebate from vs one ſcruple.

On no coaſt like ours is it caught in ſuch abundance, no where dreſt in his right cue but vnder our Horizon; hoſted roſted and toſted heere alone it is, and as well poudred and ſalted as any Duchman would deſire. If you articulate with me of the gaine or profit of it, without the which the newe fangleſt raritie, that no body can boaſt of but our ſelues, after three dayes gazing is reuerſt ouer to children for babies to play with, behold it is euery mans money from the King to the Courtier; euery houſholder or goodman *Baltrop*, that keepes a family in pay, caſts for it as one of his ſtanding prouiſions. The poorer ſort make it three parts of there ſuſte-

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nance, with it for his dinner the patchedeſt *Leather pitche Laboratho* may dine like a Spaniſh Duke, when the niggardlieſt mouſe of bieſe will coſt him ſixpence. In the craft of catching or taking it, and ſmudging it Marchant and chapmanable as it ſhould be, it ſets a worke thouſands, who liue all the reſt of the yeare gayly well, by what in ſome fewe weekes they ſcratch vp then, and come to beare office of Queſtman and Scauinger in the Pariſh where they dwell, which they could neuer haue done, but would haue begd or ſtarud with their wiues and brattes, had not this Captaine of the ſquamy cattell ſo ſtoode their good Lord and maſter: Carpenters, Shipwrights, makers of lines, roapes and cables, dreſſers of Hempe, ſpinners of thred, and net weauers it giues their handfuls to, ſets vp ſo many ſalt-houſes to make ſalt, and ſalt vpon ſalt; keepes in earnings the Cooper, the Brewer the Baker, and numbers of other people, to gill, waſh and packe it, and carrie it and recarrie it.

In exchange of it from other Countries they returne wine and Woades, for which is alwaies paide ready Golde, with ſalt, Canuas, Vitre, and a great deale of good traſh. Her Maieſties tributes and cuſtomes, this *Semper Auguſtus* of the Seas finnie freeholders, augmenteth & enlargeth vncountably, and to the encreaſe of Nauigation, for her ſeruice hee is no enemie.

Voiages of purchaſe or repriſals, which are now grown a common traffique, ſwallow vp and conſume more Saylers and Marriners then they breede, and lightly not a ſlop of a ropehaler they ſend forth to the Queenes ſhips, but hee is firſt broken to the Sea in the Herring mans Skiffe or Cockboate, where hauing learned to brooke all waters, and drinke as he can out of a tarrie Canne, and eate poore Iohn out of ſwuttie platters when he may get it without butter or muſtard, there is no ho with him but once hartned thus, hee will needes be a man of warre, or a *Tobacco* taker, and weare a ſiluer Whiſtle. Some of theſe for their haughtie climbing

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On no coast like ours is it caught in such abundance, no where drest in his right cue but vnder our Horizon; hoisted rosted and tosted heere alone it is, and as well poudred and salted as any Duchman would desire. If you articulate with me of the gaine or profit of it, without the which the newe fanglest ratitie, that no body can boast of but our selues, after three dayes gazing is reuerst ouer to children for babies to play with, behold it is euery mans money from the King to the Courtier; euery housholder or goodman *Baltrop*, that keepes a family in pay, casts for it as one of his standing prouisions. The poorer sort make it three parts of there sustenance

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Voiages of purchaſe or repriſals, which are now grown a common traffique, ſwallow vp and conſume more Saylers and Marriners then they breede, and lightly not a ſlop of a ropehaler they ſend forth to the Queenes ſhips, but hee is firſt broken to the Sea in the Herring mans Skiffe or Cockboate, where hauing learned to brooke all waters, and drinke as he can out of a tarrie Canne, and eate poore Iohn out of ſwuttie platters when he may get it without butter or muſtard, there is no ho with him but once hartned thus, hee will needes be a man of warre, or a *Tobacco* taker, and weare a ſiluer Whiſtle. Some of theſe for their haughtie climbing

come home with woodden legges and some with none, but leaue body and all behinde, those that escape to bring news, tell of nothing but eating Tallow and yong black-amores, of fiue and fiue to a Rat in euery messe, and the ship-boy to the tayle, of stopping their noses when they drunke stinking water that came out of the puuipe of the ship, and cutting a greasie buffe ierkin in tripes and broiling it for their dinners. Diuers Indian aduentures haue beene seasoned with direr mishaps, not hauing for eight dayes space the quantity of a candles-end among eight score to grease their lippes with, and landing in the end to seeke food, by the canibal Sauages they haue bene circumuented, and forced to yeeld their bodies to feed them.

Our mitred Archpatriarch *Leopald* herring exacts no such *Muscouian vassailage of his liegemen, though hee put them to their trumps other while, and scuppets not his beneficence into their mouthes with such freshwater facility as *M. Ascham* in his Schoolemaster would imply. His wordes these in his censure vpon *Varro: Hee enters not* (sayth he) *into any great depth of eloquẽce, but as one carried in a small low vessell by himselfe very nigh the common shore, not much vnlike the fisher men of Rie, or herring men of Yarmouth, who deserue by common mens opinion small commendation for any cunning sailing at all.* Well, he was her Maiesties Schoolemaster, and a *S. Iohns* man in Cambridge, in which houle once I tooke vp my inne for seuen yere together lacking a quarter and yet loue it still, for it is and euer was the sweetest nurse of knowledge in all that Vniuersity. Therefore I will keepe faire quarter with him, and expostulate the matter more tamely. *Memorandum non abuno*, I vary not a minnum from him, that in the captious mystery of Mounsieur herring low vessels will not giue their heads for the washing, holding their owne pell-mell in all weathers as roughly as vaster timber men, though not so neere the shore, as through ignorance of the coast he soundeth, nor one man by himselfe alone to doe

* That is for a man to be his owne executioner, and at his Princes becke to go vp to the top of the rock, and thence throw himselfe headlong. Fol. 63. pag. 2.

do euery thing, which is the opinion of one man by himselfe alone, and not beleeu'd of any other. Fiue to one if he were aliue, I would beate against him, since one without fiue is as good as none, to gouerne the most egshell shallop that floateth, and spread her nets, and draw them in, As stifly could I controuert it with him about pricking his card so badly in *Cape* Norfolke or *Sinus Yarmouthiensis* and discrediting our countrymen for shorecreepers, like these Colchester oystermen, or whiting-mungers and sprot-catchers. Solyman Herring woulde you shoulde perswade your selues is loftier minded and keepeth more aloofe then so, and those that are his followers if they will seeke him where hee is, more then common daunger they must incurre in close driuing vnder the sands which alternately or betwixt times when he is disposed to ensconse himselfe are his entrenched Randevowe or castle of retiring, and otherwhile fortie or threescoare leagues in the roaring territory they are glad on their wodden horses to post after him, and scoure it with their ethiope pitchbordes till they be windlesse in his quest and pursuing. Returning from waiting on him, haue with you to the *Adriatique* and abroade euery where far and neere to make portsale of their perfumed smoaky commodities, and that toyle rockt a sleepe they are for *Vltima Thule* the northseas or *Island*, and thence yerke ouer that worthy *Pallamede don pedro de linge*, and his worshipfull nephew *Hugo Habberdine*, and a trundle-taile tike or shaugh or two, and towardes *Michelmas* scud home to catch Herring againe. This argues they shoulde haue some experience of nauigation, and are not such *Halcyons* to builde their neastes all on the shoare as *M. Ascam* supposeth.

Rie is one of the antient townes belonging to the cinque ports yet limpeth cinque ace behinde Yarmouth, and it wil sincke when Yarmouth riseth, and yet if it were put in the ballance against Yarmouth, it woulde rise when Yarmouth sincketh, and to stand threshing no longer about it, Rie is Ry

and no more but Rie and Yarmouth wheate compared with it. Wherefore had he bene a right clarke of the market, he would haue set a higher price on the one then the other, and set that one of highest price aboue the other.

Those that deserue by common mens opinion small commendation for any cunning sailing at all, are not the Yarmouthers how euer there is a foule fault in the print escapt, that curstly squinteth and leereth that way, but the bonnie Northren cobbles of his countrey, with their Indian canaos or boats like great beefe trayes or kneading troughs, firking as flight swift thorow the glassy fieldes of *Thetis*, as if it were the land of yce, and sliding ouer the boiling desert so earely, and neuer bruise one bubble of it, as though they contended to out-strip the light-foot tripper in the *Metamorphisis*, who would run ouer the ripe-bending eares of corne, and neuer shed or perish one kirnell. No such yron-fisted *Ciclops* to hew it out of the flint, and runne thorow any thing as these frost-bitten crab-tree fac't lads spunne out of the hards of the towe, which are Donsel herrings lackeys at Yarmouth euery fishing.

Let the carreeringest billow confesse and absolue it selfe, before it pricke vp his bristles against them, for if it come vpon his dancing horse, and offer to tilt it with them, they will aske no trustier lances then their oares to beat out the brains of it, and stop his throat from belching.

These rubbes remooued, on with our game as fast as wee may, & to the gaine of the red herring againe another crash. *Item* if it were not for this *Huniades* of the liquid element, that word *Quadragesima*, or Lent might be cleane spung'd out of the Kalender, with Rogation weeks, Saints eues, and the whole Ragmans roule of fasting dayes, and Fishmongers might keepe Christmasse all the yeere, for any ouerlauish takings they should haue of clownes and clouted shoes, and the rubbish menialty their best customers, and their bloudy aduertaries the butchers would neuer leaue clea-

uing

uing it out in the whole chines, till they had got a Lord Maior of their company as well as they. Nay out of their wits they would be haunted with continuall takings,& ſtand croſſe-gag'd with kniues in their mouthes from one Shroft-tuiſday to another, and weare candles-endes in their hattes at midſommer, hauing no time to ſhaue their prickes, or waſhe their flyeblowne aprons if *Domingo Rufus* or *Sacrapant herring* cauſed not the dice to runne contrary.

The Rhomiſh rotten *Pithagoreans* or *Carthuſian* friers, that mumpe on nothing but fiſhe, in what a flegmatique predicament would they be, did not this counterpoyſon of the ſpitting ſickeneſſe(ſixtiefolde more reſtoratiue then *Bezer*) patch them out and preſerue them, which being dubble roſted and dryde as it is, not onely ſucks vp all rhewmatique inundations, but is a ſhooing-horne for a pinte of wine ouer-plus.

The ſweete ſmacke that Yarmouth findes in it, and how it hath made it *Lippitudo Atticæ* (as it was ſaide of *Ægina* her neere adiacent comfronter) the blemiſh and ſtaine of all her ſalt-water ſiſters in England, and multiplide it from a moulhill of ſand, to a cloude-crowned mount *Teneriffe*, abbreuiatly and meetely according to my old *Sarum* plaine ſong I haue harpt vpon, and that, if there were no other certificat or inſtance of the inlinked conſanguinitie twixt him and Lady Lucar, is *Inſtar mille*, worth a million of witneſſes, to exemplifie the ritches of him. The Poets were triuiall, that ſet vp *Helens* face for ſuch a top-gallant Summer May-pole for men to gaze at, and ſtrouted it out ſo in their buskind braues of her beautie, whereof the onely *Circes Heypaſſe*, and *Repaſſe* was that it drewe a thouſand ſhips to *Troy*, to fetch her backe with a peſtilence. Wiſe men in *Greece* in the meane while to ſwagger ſo aboute a whore.

Eloquious hoarie beard father *Neſtor*, you were one of them, and you *M. Vliſſes* the prudent dwarfe of *Pallas* another, of whome it is *Illiadizd* that your very noſe dropt ſu-

gar candie, and that your ſpittle was honye. *Natalis Comes* if he were aboue ground, would be ſworne vpon it. As loude a ringing miracle as the attractiue melting eye of that ſtrũpet can we ſupply thẽ with of our dappert *Piemont Huldrick Herring*, which draweth more barkes to Yarmouth bay, then her beautie did to *Troy*. O he is attended vpon moſt *Babilonically*, and Xerxes ſo ouercloyd not the *Helleſpont* with his foyſtes, gallies, and brigandines, as he mantleth the narrow ſeas with his retinue, being not much behinde in the check-roule of his *Ianiſſaries* and contributories, with Eagle-ſoaring *Bullingbrooke*, that at his remouing of houſhold into baniſhment (as father *Froyſard* threapes vs downe) was accompanied with 40000. men wemen and children weeping, from London to the landes end at Douer. A colony of criticall *Zenos* ſhould they ſinnow their ſillogiſticall cluſter-fiſtes in one bundle to confute and diſproue mouing, were they but during the time they might lap vp a meſſe of buttred fiſh, in Yarmouth one fiſhing, ſuch a violent motion of toyling *Mirmidons* they ſhould be ſpectators of and a confuſed ſtirring to and fro, of a *Lapantalike* hoaſt of vnfatigable flud bickerers and foame-curbers, that they woulde not moue or ſtir one foote till they had diſclaimd and abiurd their bedred ſpittle-poſitiõs. In verament and ſincerity I neuer crouded through this confluent herring faire, but it put me in memory of the great yeare of Iubile in *Edward* the thirds time, in which it is ſealed and deliuered vnder the handes of a publique notary, three hundred thouſand people romed to Rome for purgatorie pils and paternal veniall benedictions, and the waies beyond ſea were ſo bungd vp with your dayly oratours or *Beads-men* and your crutchet or croutchant friers or croſſe-creepers and barefoote penitentiaries, that a ſnaile coulde not wriggle in her hornes betwixt them. Small thinges we may expreſſe by great, and great by ſmal, though the greatneſſe of the redde herring be not ſmall as ſmall a hoppe on my thumbe as hee ſeemeth) It is with him as with great perſonages

olde time ey vſed to ring out at a- miracle.

he ſea bat- ile at Lepan- fought in he beginning f her Maie- ies raigne.

ſonages, which from their high eſtate and not their high ſtatures propagate the eleuaute titles of their Gogmagognes, Caſt his ſtate who will and they ſhall finde it to be very high coloured (as high coloured as his complexion if I ſaide there were not a pimple to be abated) In Yarmouth he hath ſet vp his ſtate houſe, where one quarter of a yeare he keepes open court for *Iewes* and gentiles.

To fetch him in, in * *Troian Equipage* ſome of euery of the Chriſt-croſſe Alphabet of outlandiſh *Coſmopoli* furrowe vp the rugged brine, and ſweepe through his tumultuous oous will or nill hee rather then in tendring their alleagance they ſhould be benighted with tardity. For our Engliſh *Mikrokoſmos or Phenician Didos* hide of grounde; no ſhire, county count palatine, or quarter of it, but rigs out ſome oken ſquadron or other to waft him along * *Cleopatræan* * *Olimplickly*, and not the dimunutiueſt nooke or creuiſe of them but is parturiēt of the like ſuperofficiouſnes, *arming forth though it be but a catch or pinck no capabler then a rundlet or waſhing bowle, to impe the wings of his conuoy. *Holy S. Taurbard* in what droues the gouty bagd Londoners hurry down and die the watchet aire of an yron ruſſet hue with the duſt that they raiſe in hot ſpurd rowelling it on to performe cōplementes vnto him. One becke more to the balies of the cinque portes, whome I were a ruder *Barbarian* then *Smill* the Prince of the *Crims & Nagayans* if in this actiō I ſhould forget (hauing had good cheare at their tables more then once or twice whiles I loytred in this paragōleſſe fiſh town) Citty, towne, cuntry, Robin hoode and little Iohn and who not, are induſtrious and carefull to ſquire and ſafe conduct him in, but in vſhering him in next to the balies of Yarmoth, they trot before all, and play the prouoſt marſhals helping to keep good rule the firſt three weeks of his ingreſſe, and neuer leaue roaring it out with their braſen horne as long as they ſtay, of the freedomes and immunities ſourſing frō him. Beeing thus entred or brought in the conſiſtorians or ſetled

* The fattall wodden horſe at Troy fetcht in with ſuch pompe.

Cleopatras glorious ſayling to meete Anthony.

*The ſolemne bringing of the champions at Olimpus.

1. Tugging forth by the ſtrength of their armes.

ſtanders of Yarmouth, commenſe inteſtine warres amongſt themſelues who ſhould giue him the largeſt hoſpitality, and gather about him as flocking to hanſell him and ſtrike him good luck as the Sweetkin Madans did about valiãt *S. Walter Manny* the martiall tutor vnto the Blacke prince (he that built Charterhouſe) who being vpon the point of a hazzardous iourney into France, either to win the horſe or loſe the ſaddle (as it runs in the Prouerb) & taking his leaue at Court in a ſute of male frõ top to toe, all the ladies clung about him, and would not let him ſtretch out a ſtep till they had enſettred him with their variable fauours, and embroidred ouer his armour like a gaudy Summer meade, with three ſcarfes, bracelets, chains, ouches: in generous reguerdoment wherof he ſacramentally obliged himſelfe, that had the French king as many giants in his countrey as hee hath peares or grapes, and they ſtood all enranged on the ſhore to interdict his diſembarking, through the thickeſt thornie quickſet of thẽ he would pierce, or be toſt vp to heauen on their ſpeares, but in honour of thoſe debonaire Idalian nimphs and their ſpangled trappings, he would be the firſt man ſhould ſet foot in his kingdome, or vnſheath ſteele againſt him. As he promiſed ſo was his * manly blades execution, and in emulation of him, whole heards of knights and gentlemen clos'd vp their right eyes with a piece of ſilke euery one, & vowed neuer to vncouer them or let thẽ ſee light, til in the aduancement of their miſtreſſe beauties, they had enacted with their brandiſht bilbowblades ſome chiualrous *Bellerophons* trick at armes, that from Salomons Ilands to S. Magnus corner might cry clang againe. O it was a braue age then, and ſo it is euer, where there are offenſiue wars, and not defenſiue, & men fight for the ſpoile, and not in feare to be ſpoiled, & are as lions ſeeking out their pray, and not as ſheepe that lie ſtill whiles they are prayd on. The redde herring is a legate of peace, and ſo abhorrent from vnnatural bloudſhed, that if in his quarrell or bandying, who ſhould harbirg him, there be any

* Manny quaſi Manly, & from him I take it the Mannies of Kent are deſcended.

any hewing or ſlaſhing, or trials of life & death, there where that hang-man embowelling is, his purſuiuants or bailie r returne *non eſt inuentus*, out of one bailiwick he is fled, neuer to be faſtened on there more. The Scotiſh Iockies or Redſhanks (ſo ſurnamed of their immoderate raunching vp the red ſhanks or red herrings) vpholde & make good the ſame. Their clacke or gabbling to this purport: *How in diebus illis, when Robert de Breaux their gud king ſent his deare heart to the haly land, for reaſon he caud not gang thider himſelfe (or then or thereabout, or whilome before, or whilome after, it matters not) they had the ſtaple or fruits of the herring in their road or channell, till a foule ill feud aroſe amongſt his ſectaries and ſeruitours, and there was mickle tule, and a blacke warld, and a deale of whinyards drawne about him, and many ſackleſſe wights and praty barnes run through the tender weambs, and fra thence ne ſarry taile of a herring in thilke ſound they caud gripe.* This language or parley haue I vſurpt from ſome of the deſteſt lads in all Edenborough towne, which it will be no impeachment for the wiſeſt to turne looſe for a trueth, without any diffident wraſtling with it. The ſumpathy thereunto in our owne frothy ſtreames we haue tooke napping, wherfore without any further bolſtring or backing, this Scotiſh hiſtory may beare palme, & if any further bolſtring or backing be required, it is euident by the confeſſion of the ſixe hundred Scotiſh witches executed in Scotland at Bartelmewtide was twelue-moneth, that in Yarmouth road they were all together in a plumpe on Chriſtmaſſe eue was two yere when the great floud was, & there ſtird vp ſuch *ternados* & *furicanos* of tempeſts, in enuy (as I collect) that the ſtaple of the herring from them was tranſlated to Yarmouth, as will be ſpoke of there whiles any winds or ſtormes & tempeſts chafe & puffe in the lower region. They and all the ſeafaring townes vnder our temperate zone of peace, may well enuy her proſperity, but they cannot march cheeke by iowle with her or coequall her, and ther's no ſuch manifeſt ſigne of great proſperity as a

generall enuy encompaſſing it. Kings, noble-men it cleaues vnto that walke vpright, and are any thing happy, & euen amongſt meane artificers it thruſts in his foot, one of thē enuying another if he haue a knack aboue another, or his gains be greater, and if in his arte they cannot diſgrace him, they will finde a ſtarting hole in his life that ſhall confound him: for example: There is * a mathematicall Smith or artificer in Yarmouth that hath made a locke and key that weighes but three farthings, and a cheſt with a paire of knit gloues in the till of it, whoſe whole poiſe is no more but a groat, now I do not thinke but all the Smiths in London, Norwich or Yorke (if they heard of him) would enuy him, if they could not outworke him. *Hydra* herring will haue euery thing * Sybarite dainty, where he lays knife aboord, or he wil fly them, he wil not looke vpon them. Stately borne, ſtately ſprung he is, the beſt bloud of the Ptolomies no ſtatelier, and with what ſtate he hath bene vſed from his ſwadling clouts, I haue reiterated vnto you, and which is a note aboue *ela*, ſtately *Hyperion* or the lordly ſonne, the moſt rutilant planet of the ſeuē, in Lent when *Heralius* herring enters into his chiefe reign and ſcepterdome, skippeth and danſeth the goats iumpe on the earth for ioy of his entrance. Do but marke him on your walles any morning at that ſeaſon how he ſallies & laualtos, and you wil ſay I am no fabler. Of ſo eye bewitching a deaurate ruddie dy is the skincoat of this Lantſgraue, that happy is that nobleman who for his colours in armory can neereſt imitate his chimicall temper, nay which is more, if a man ſhould tell you that god *Himens* ſaffron colour'd robe were made of nothing but red herrings skins, you would hardly beleeue him: ſuch is the obduracy & hardneſſe of heart of a number of infidels in theſe dayes, they will teare herrings out of their skins as faſt as one of theſe Exchequer tellers can turne ouer a heape of money, but his vertues both exterior and interior they haue no more taſte of, then of a diſh of ſtockfiſh. Somewhere I haue ſnatcht vp a ieaſt of a king that was deſirous to

Iohn Thurkle

The Sybarites euer woulde take any banket vnder a velue-moths warning.

try

try what kinde of fleſh-meat was moſt nutritiue proſperous with a mans body, and to that purpoſe he commanded foure hungry fellowes, in foure ſeparate roomes by themſelues to bee ſhut vp for a yeare and a day, whereof the firſt ſhoulde haue his gut bumbaſted with biefe and nothing elſe, till hee cride hold belly holde, and ſo the ſecond to haue his paunch cramd with porke, the third with mutton, & the fourth with veale. At the tweluemonths ende they were brought before him, & he enquired of euery one orderly what he had eate. Therewith outſtept the ſtallfed foreman that had bin at hoſt with the fat oxe, and was growne as fat as an oxe with tiring on the ſurloynes, and baſt in his face Biefe, Biefe, Biefe. Next the Norfolke hog or the ſwine-wurrier, who had got him a ſagging paire of cheeks like a ſows paps that giues ſuck, with the plentyfull maſt ſet before him, came lazily wadling in, and puft out Porke, Porke, Porke. Then the fly ſheepe-biter iſſued into the midſt, and ſummer ſetted & fliptflapt it twenty times aboue ground as light as a feather and cride mitton, mitton, mitton, laſt the Eſſex calfe or lagman, who had loſt the calues of his legs with gnawing on the horſlegs, ſhudring and quaking limpte after, with a viſage as pale as a peece of white leather, and a ſtaffe in his hande and a kirchiefe on his head, and very lamentably vociferated veale, veale, veale. A witty toy of his noble grace it was, and different from the recipes and preſcriptions of our moderne phiſitions, that to any ſicke languiſhers if they be able to waggle their chaps, propound veale for one of the higheſt nouriſhers.

But had his principalitie gone thorough with fiſh as well as fleſh, and put a man to liuery with the red herring but as long, he would haue come in *Hurrey, Hurrey, Hurrey*, as if he were harrying and chaſing his enemies, & *Beuis* of *Hampton* after he had bene out of his diet, ſhould not haue bene able to haue ſtood before him. A chollericke parcell of food it is, that who ſo ties himſelfe to racke and manger to for fiue ſummers, and fiue winters, he ſhall beget a child that will be a ſouldiour and a commaunder before hee hath caſt his firſt

As much to ſay as Vrrey, Vrrey, Vrrey one of the principall places where the herring is caught.

teeth, & an *Alexander*, a *Iulius Cæſar*, a *Scanderbega Barbaroſſa* he will proue ere he aſpire to thirtie,

But to thinke on a red Herring, ſuch a hot ſtirring meate it is, is enough to make the craueneſt daſtard proclaime fire and ſword againſt Spaine. The moſt intenerate Virgine wax phiſnomy, that taints his throate with the leaſt ribbe of it, it will embrawne and Iron cruſt his fleſh, and harden his ſoft bleding vaines as ſtiffe and robuſtious, as branches of Corrall. The art of kindling of fires that is practiſed in the ſmoking or parching of him, is old dog againſt the plague. Too foule-mouthed I am to becollow or becollier, him with ſuch chimnie ſweeping attributes of ſmoking and parching. Wil you haue the ſecrete of it, this well meaning *Pater patriæ*, & prouiditore and ſupporter of Yarmouth (which is the locke and key of Norfolke) looking pale and ſea-ſicke at his firſt landing, thoſe that be his ſtewards or neceſſarieſt men about him, whirle him in a thought out of the raw colde ayre, to ſome ſtew or hot houſe, where immuring himſelfe for three or foure dayes, when he vn-houſeth him, or hath caſt off his ſhel, he is as freckled about the gils, & lookes as red as a Fox, clumme & is more ſurly to be ſpoken with then euer he was before, and like *Lais* of Corinth, will ſmile vpon no man except he may haue his owne asking. There are that number of Herrings vented out of Yarmouth euery yeare (though the Grammarians make no plurall number of *Halec*) as not onely they are more by two thouſand Laſt then our owne land can ſpend, but they fil all other lands, to whome at their owne priſes they ſell them, and happie is he that can firſt lay hold of them. And how can it bee otherwiſe, for if Corniſh Pilchards otherwiſe called *Fumados*, taken on the ſhore of Cornewall, from Iuly to Nouember, bee ſo ſaleable as they are in Fraunce, Spaine and Italy, (which are but countefets to the red Herring as Copper to Golde, or Ockamie to ſiluer, much more, there elbows itch for ioy, when they meete with the true Golde, the true red Herring it ſelfe. No true flying fiſh but he, or if there be, that fiſh neuer flies but when his

his wings are wet, and the red Herring flyes beſt when his wings are dry, throughout Belgia, high Germanie, Fraunce, Spaine and Italy hee flyes, and vp into Greece, and Africa South, and Southweſt, Eſtritch-like walkes his ſtations, and the Sepulcher, Palmers or Pilgrims, becauſe hee is ſo portable fill their Scrips with them, yea no diſpraiſe to the bloud of the *Ottamans*, the *Nabuchedoneſor* of Conſtantinople, and Giantly *Antæus* that neuer yawneth nor neezeth but he affrighteth the whole earth, gormandizing muncheth him vp for imperiall dainties, and will not ſpare his Idol *Mahomet* a bit with him, no not though it would fetch him from heauen fortie yeares before his time, whence with his Doue that he taught to pecke Barley out of his eare, and brought his Diſciples into a fooles paradiſe, that it was the holy ghoſt in her ſimilitude, he is expected euery minute to diſcend, but I am affraid, as he was troubled with the falling ſickneſſe, in his life time, in ſelfe manner it tooke him in his mounting vp to heauen, & ſo *ab inferno nulla redemptio*, he is falne backward into hell, and they are neuer more like to heare of him. Whiles I am ſhuffling and cutting with theſe long coated Turkes, would any antiquarie would explicate vnto mee this remblere or quidditie, whether thoſe *Turbanto* grout-heads, that hang all men by the throates on Iron hookes, euen as our Toers hang all there Herrings by the throates on wodden ſpits, firſt learnd it of our Herring men, or our herringmen of them. Why the Alcheronſhip of that Belzabub of *Saracens*, *Rhinoceros Zelim* aforeſaid, ſhould ſo much delight in this ſhinie animall I cannot geſſe, except hee had a deſire to imitate *Midas* in eating of gold, or *Dionyſius* in ſtripping of *Iupiter* out of his golden Coate; and to ſhoote my fooles bolt amongſt you, that fable of *Midas* eating gold had no other ſhadow or incluſiue pith in it, but he was of a queaſie ſtomacke, and nothing hee coulde fancie, but this newe found guilded fiſh, which *Bacchus* at his requeſt gaue him, (though it were not knowne here two thouſand yeare

Turbanto, the great Iawne roule Turkes were aboute their heads.

after, for it was the delicates of the gods, & no mortall foode til of late yeares) *Midas* vnexperienſt of the nature of it, (for he was a foole that had aſſes eares) ſnapt it vp at one blow, & becauſe in the boyling or ſeathing of it in his maw, he felt it commotion a little and vpbraide him, he thought he had eaten golde in deede, and thereupon directed his Orizons to *Bacchus* afreſh, to helpe it out of his crop againe, and haue mercy vpon him and recouer him, hee propenſiue inclining to *Midas* deuotion in euery thing, in lieu of the friendly hoſpitalities, drunken *Silenus* his companion found at his hands when he ſtrayed from him, bad him but goe waſh himſelfe in the riuer *Pactolus*, that is, goe waſh it downe ſoundly with flowing cups of Wine and he ſhould be as well as euer hee was. By the turning of the riuer *Pactolus* into golde, after he had ren'ct and clarified himſelfe in it (which is the cloſe of the fiction) is ſignified that in regard of that bleſſed operation of the iuice of the grape in him, from that day forth in nothing but golden cups he would drinke or quaffe it, whereas in wodden Mazers, and *Agathocles* earthen ſtuffe, they trillild it off before, and that was the firſt time that any golden cups wer vſed.

Follow this tract in expounding the tale of *Dioniſius* and *Iupiter*, and you cannot goe amiſſe. No ſuch *Iupiter*, no ſuch golden coated image was there: but it was a plaine golden coated red herring without welt or garde, whome for the ſtrangenes of it (they hauing neuer beheld a beaſt of that hue before) in their temples inſhrined for a God, and in ſomuch as *Iupiter* had ſhewed thē ſuch ſlippery prancks more then once or twiſe, in ſhifting himſelfe into ſundry ſhapes, and rayning himſelfe downe in golde into a womans lappe, they thought this too might be a rricke of youth in him, to alter himſelfe into the forme of this golden *Scals-ger*, or red herring. And therefore as to *Iupiter* they fell downe on their marybones, & lift vp their hay-cromes vnto him. Now king *Dioniſius* being a good wiſe-fellow, for he was afterwards a ſchoolemaſter, & had plaid the coatchman to *Plato* & ſpit in

Ariſtip-

Aristippus the Philosophers face many a time and oft, no sooner entred their tẽple, & saw him sit vnder his Canopie so budgely with a whole Goldsmiths stall of iewelles and rich offerings at his feete, but to him he stept, and pluckt him from his state with a wennion, then drawing out his knife most iracundiously, at one whiske lopt off his head, and stript him out of his golden demy or mandillion, and flead him, and thrust him downe his pudding house at a gobbe: yet long it prospered not with him, (so reuengefull a iust Iupiter is the red Herring) for as he tare him from his throne, and vncased him of his habiliments, so in smal deuolution of yeres, from his throne was he chaced, and cleane stript out of his royalty, & glad to go play the Schoolemaister at Corinth, and take a rodde in his hand for his scepter, and horne-booke Pigmeis for his subiects, *id est*, (as I intimated some dozen lines before) of a tyrant to become a frowning pedant or schoolemaister.

Many of you haue read these stories, and coulde neuer picke out any such English, no more woulde you of the Ismael Persians Haly, or *Mortus Alli*, they worship, whose true etimologie is, *mortuum halec*, a dead red herring, and no other, though by corruption of speech, they false dialect and misse-sound it. Let any Persian oppugne this, and in spite of his hairie tuft or loue-locke he leaues on the top of his crowne, to be pulld vp, or pullied vp to heauen by, Ile set my foote to his, & fight it out with him, that their fopperly god is not so good as a red Herring. To recount *ab ouo*, or from the church-booke of his birth, howe the Herring first came to be a fish, and then how he came to be king of fishes, and gradionately, how from white to red he changed, would require as massie a toombe as Hollinshead, but in halfe a penniworth of paper I

will epitomize them. Let me see, hath any bodie in Yarmouth heard of Leander and Hero, of whome diuine *Musæus* sung, and a diuiner Muse than him, *Kit Marlow*?

Twoo faithfull louers they were, as euerie apprentise in Paules churchyard will tell you for your loue, and sel you for your mony: the one dwelt at Abidos in Asia, which was Leander, the other which was Hero, his Mistris or Delia, at Sestos in Europe, and she was a pretty pinckany and Venus priest; and but an arme of the sea diuided them: it diuided them and it diuided them not, for ouer that arme of the sea could be made a long arme. In their parents the most diuision rested, and their townes that like Yarmouth and Leystoffe were stil at wrig wrag, & suckt frō their mothers teates serpentine hatred one against each other. Which droue Leander when he durst not deale aboue boord, or be seene aboorde any ship, to saile to his Lady deare, to play the didopper and ducking water spaniel to swim to her, nor that in the day, but by owlelight.

What will not blinde night doe for blinde Cupid? and what will not blinde Cupid doe in the night which is his blindmans holiday? By the sea side on the other side stoode Heroes tower, such an other tower as one of our Irish castles, that is not so wide as a belfree, and a Cobler cannot iert out his elbowes in; a cage or pigeonhouse, romthsome enough to comprehend her and the toothlesse trotte her nurse, who was her onely chatmate and chambermaide; consultiuely by her parents being so encloistred frō resort, that she might liue chaste vestall Priest to Venus the queene of vnchastitie. Shee would none of that she thanked them, for shee was better prouided, and that which they thought serued their turn best of sequestring her

from

from company, ſerued her turne beſt to embrace the company ſhe deſired. Fate is a ſpaniel that you cannot beate from you; the more you thinke to croſſe it, the more you bleſſe it, and further it.

Neither her father nor mother vowed chaſtitie when ſhe was begote, therefore ſhe thought they begat her not to liue chaſte, & either ſhe muſt proue hir ſelfe a baſtard, or ſhew herſelfe like them. Of Leander you may write vpon, and it is written vpon, ſhe like well, and for all he was a naked man, and cleane diſpoyled to the skinne, when hee ſprawled through the brackiſh ſuddes to ſcale her tower, all the ſtrength of it could not hold him out. O ware a naked man, Cytherees Nunnes haue no power to reſiſte him: and ſome ſuch qualitie is aſcribed to the lion. Were hee neuer ſo naked when he came to her, bicauſe he ſhuld not skare her, ſhe found a meanes to couer him in her bed, & for he might not take cold after his ſwimming, ſhe lay cloſe by him, to keepe him warme. This ſcuffling or bopeepe in the darke they had a while without weame or bracke, and the olde nurſe (as there bee three things ſeldome in their right kinde till they bee old, a bawd, a witch, and a midwife) executed the huck ſtring office of her yeres very charily & circumſpectly til their ſliding ſtarres reuolted from them: and then for ſeauen dayes togither, the winde and the Helleſpont contended which ſhuld howle lowder, the waues daſhed vp to the cloudes, and the clouds on the other ſide ſpit and driueld vpon them as faſt.

Hero wept as trickling as the heauens, to thinke that heauen ſhould ſo diuorce them. Leander ſtormed worſe than the ſtormes, that by them hee ſhould be ſo reſtrained from his Cinthya. At Seſtos was his ſoule, and hee coulde not abide to tarry in Abidos. Rayne, ſnowe, haile, or blowe it howe it could,

into the pitchie Heleſpont he leapt when the moone and all her torch-bearers were afraide to peepe out their heads; but he was peppered for it, hee hadde as good haue tooke meate, drinke, and leiſure, for the churliſh frampold waues gaue him his belly full of fiſh-broath, ere out of their laundry or waſhe-houſe they woulde graunt him his coquet or *tranſire*, and not onely that, but they ſealde him his *quietus eſt*, for curuetting any more to the mayden tower, and toſſed his dead carcaſſe, well bathed or parboyled, to the ſandy threſhold of his leman or orenge, for a diſiune or morning breakfaſt. All that line long night could ſhe not ſleepe, ſhe was ſo troubled with the rheume, which was a ſigne ſhe ſhould heare of ſome drowning: Yet towards cocke-crowing ſhe caught a little ſlumber, and then ſhee dreamed that Leander and ſhee were playing at checkeſtone with pearles in the bottome of the ſea.

You may ſee dreames are not ſo vaine as they are preached of, though not in vaine, Preachers inueigh againſt them, and bende themſelues out of the peoples mindes, to exhale their fooliſh ſuperſtition. The rheume is the ſtudents diſeaſe, and who ſtudy moſt, dreame moſt. The labouring mens hands, glowe and bliſter after their dayes worke: the glowing and bliſtring of our braines after our day labouring cogitations are dreames, and thoſe dreames are reaking vapours of no impreſsion, if our mateleſſe cowches bee not halfe empty. Hero hoped, and therefore ſhee dreamed (as all hope is but a dreame) her hope was where her heart was, and her heart winding and turning with the winde, that might winde her heart of golde to her, or elſe turne him from her. Hope and feare both combatted in her, and both theſe are wakefull, which made her at breake of day (what an olde

old crone is the day, that is so long a breaking) to vnloope her luket or casement, to looke whence the blasts came, or what gate or pace the sea kept, when foorthwith her eyes bred her eye-sore, the first white whereon their transpiercing arrowes stuck, beïng the breathlesse corps of *Leander*: with the sodaine contemplation of this piteous spectacle of her loue, sodden to haddocks meate, her sorrowe could not choose but be indefinite, if her delight in him were but indifferent; and there is no woman but delights in sorrow, or she would not vse it so lightly for euery thing.

Downe shee ranne in her loose night-gowne, and her haire about her eares (euen as *Semiramis* ranne out with her lie-pot in her hand, and her blacke dangling tresses about her shoulders with her iuory combe ensnarled in them, when she heard that *Babilon* was taken) and thought to haue kist his dead corse aliue againe, but as on his blew iellied sturgeon lips, she was about to clappe one of those warme plaisters, boystrous woolpacks of ridged tides came rowling in, and raught him from her, (with a minde belike to carrie him backe to *Abidos*.) At that she became a franticke Bacchanal outright, & made no more bones but sprāg after him, and so resignd vp her Priesthood, and left worke for *Musæus* and *Kit Marlowe*. The gods, and gods and goddesses all on a rowe bread and crow, from *Ops* to *Pomona*, the first applewife, were so dumpt with this miserable wracke, that they beganne to abhorre al moysture for the seas sake: and *Iupiter* could not endure *Ganimed* his cup-bearer to come in his presence, both for the dislike he bore to *Neptunes* baneful licour, as also that hee was so like to *Leander*. The sunne was so in his mumps vppon it, that it was almost noone before hee could goe to cart that day, and then with so ill a will hee went, that hee had

thought to haue topled his burning carre or Hurrie currie into the sea (as *Phaeton* did) to scorch it and dry it vppe, and at night when hee was begrimed with dust and sweate of his iourney, he would not descend as hee was woont, to wash him in the Ocean, but vnder a tree layde him downe to rest in his cloathes all night, and so did the scouling Moone vnder another fast by him, which of that are behighted the trees of the Sunne and Moone, and are the same that Syr *Iohn Mandeuile* tels vs hee spoke with, and that spoke to *Alexander*. *Venus*, for *Hero* was her priest, and *Iuno Lucina* the midwifes goddesse, for she was now quickned, and cast away by the cruelty of *Æolus*, tooke bread and salt and eate it, that they would bee smartlie reuenged on that truculent windy iailour, and they forgot it not, for *Venus* made his sonne and his daughter to committe incest together. *Lucina*, that there might bee some lasting characters of his shame, helpt to bring her to bedde of a goodly boy, and *Æolus* boulting out al this, heapt murder vppon murder.

The dint of destiny could not be repeald in the reuiuing of *Hero* & *Leander*, but their heauenly hoods in theyr synode thus decreede, that for they were either of them seaborderers and drowned in the sea, stil to the sea they must belong, and bee diuided in habitation after death, as they were in their life time. *Leander*, for that in a cold darke testie night he had his pasport to *Charon*, they terminated to the vnquiet cold coast of Heland, where halfe the yeare is nothing but murke night, and to that fish translated him, which of vs is termed Ling. *Hero*, for that she was pagled and timpanized, and sustained two losses vnder one, they footebald their heades togither, & protested to make the stem of her loynes of all fishes the flanting Fabian or Palmerin of England, which is

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Cadwallader Herring, and as their meetings were but ſeldome, and not ſo oft as welcome, ſo but ſeldome ſhould they meete in the heele of the weeke at the beſt mens tables, vppon Fridayes and Satterdayes, the holy time of Lent exempted, and then they might be at meate and meale for ſeuen weekes togither.

The nurſe or mother Mampudding that was a cowring on the backe ſide whiles theſe things were a tragedizing, led by the ſcritch or outcry to the proſpect of this ſorrowfull heigho, as ſoone as through the raũeld button holes of her bleare eyes, ſhe had ſuckt in & receiued ſuch a reuelatiõ of Doomeſday, & that ſhe ſaw her miſtris mounted a cockhorſe, & hoyſted away to hell or to heauen on the backs of thoſe rough headed ruffians, down ſhe ſunk to the earth, as dead as a doore naile, and neuer mumpt cruſt after. Whereof their ſupernalities (hauing a drop or two of pitty left of the huge hogſhead of teares they ſpent for *Hero* & *Leander*) ſeemed to be ſomething ſorie, though they could not weepe for it, and becauſe they would bee ſure to haue a medicine that ſhould make them weep at all times, to that kinde of graine they turned her, which wee call muſtard-ſeede, as well for ſhee was a ſhrewiſh ſnappiſh bawd, that wold bite off a mãs noſe with an anſwere, and had rumatique ſore eyes that ran alwaies, as that ſhe might accompany *Hero* & *Leander* after death, as in hir life time: & hẽce it is that muſtard bites a mã ſo by the noſe, & makes him weep & water his plants when he taſteth it: & that *Hero* & *Leander*, the red Herring and Ling, neuer come to the boord without muſtard, their waiting maid: & if you marke it, muſtard looks of the tanned wainſcot hue, of ſuch a withered wrinkleſaced beldam as ſhe was, that was altred thereinto. Louing Hero, how euer altered, had a ſmack of loue ſtil, & therfore to the coaſt of louing-

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land (to Yarmouth neere adioyning, & within her liberties of Kirtley roade) ſhe accuſtomed to come in pilgrimage euery yeare, but contentions ariſing there, and ſhee remembring the euent of the contentions betwixt *Seſtos* and *Abidos*, that wrought both *Leanders* death and hers, ſhunneth it off late, and retireth more northwards, ſo ſhe ſhunneth vnquiet Humber, becauſe *Elſtred* was drownd there, and the Scots Seas, as before, & euery other ſea where any bloud hath bin ſpilt, for her owne ſeas ſake, that ſpilt her ſweete ſweete hearts bloud and hers.

Whippet, turne to a new leſſon, and ſtrike wee vp Iohn for the King, or tell howe the Herring ſcrambled vp to be King of all fiſhes. So it fel vpon a time and tide, though not vppon a holiday, a faulconer bringing ouer certaine hawkes out of *Ireland*, and airing them aboue hatches on ſhip-boord, and giuing them ſtones to caſt & ſcoure, one of them broke looſe from his fiſt ere he was aware, which beeing in her Kingdome when ſhee was got vppon her wings, and finding her ſelfe emptie gorged after her caſting, vp to heauen ſhe towred to ſeeke pray, but there being no game to pleaſe her, downe ſhe fluttered to the ſea againe, and a ſpeckled fiſh playing aboue the water, at it ſhe ſtrooke, miſtaking it for a partrich. A ſharke or Tuberon that lay gaping for the flying fiſh hard by, what did me he, but ſeeing the marke fall ſo iuſt in his mouth, chopt aloft, and ſnapt her vp belles and all, at a mouthfull. The newes of this murderous act, carried by the Kings fiſher to the eares of the land foules, there was nothing but arme, arme, arme, to ſea, to ſea, ſwallow & titmouſe, to take chaſticemēt of that treſpaſſe of bloud & death committed againſt a peere of their bloud royal. Preparation was made, the muſter taken, the leaders allotted, and had their

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bils to take vp pay; an old goshawke for general was appointed, for Marshall of the field a Spathawke, whom for no former desert they putte in office, but because it was one of their linage had sustained that wrong, and they thought they would be more implacable in condoling and commiserating. The Peacocks with their spotted coates and affrighting voyces for heralds they prickt and enlisted, and the cockadoodling cocks for their trumpeters, (looke vpon any cocke, and looke vpon any trumpeter, and see if hee looke not as red as a cocke after his trumpeting, and a cocke as red as he after his crowing.) The kistrilles or windfuckers that filling themselues with winde, fly against the winde euermore, for their fulsailed standerdbearers, the Cranes for pikemen, and the woodcocks for demilances, and so of the rest euery one according to that place by nature hee was most apt for. Away to the landes ende they trigge all the skie-bred chirpers of them, when they came there, *Æquora nos terrent & ponti tristis imago*, They had wings of good wil to fly with, but no webbes on their feete to swimme with, for except the waterfoules had mercie vpon them, and stood their faithfull confederates and backe-friends, on their backes to transport them, they might returne home like good fooles, and gather strawes to build their nests, or tal to theyr old trade of picking wormes. In sum, to the water foules vnanimately they recourse, and besought Ducke, and Drake, Swanne and Goose Halcions & Seapies, Cormorants & Sea-guls of their oary assistance, & aydeful furtherance in this action.

They were not obdurate to be intreated, though they had little cause to reuenge the hawkes quarrell from them, hauing receiued so many high displeasures, and slaughters, and rapines of their race,

yet in a generall prosecution priuate feuds they trode vnderfoote, and submitted their endeuors to be at theyr limitation in euery thing.

The puffin that is halfe fish, halfe flesh (a Iohn indifferent, and an *Ambodexter* betwixt either) bewrayed this conspiracie to *Protæus* heards, or the fraternity of fishes, which the greater giants of Rusia & Island, as the whale, the sea horse, the Norse, the wasserman, the Dolphin the Grampoys fleered and geered at as a ridiculous danger, but the lesser pigmeis & spawne of them, thought it meete to prouide for themselues betime, and elect a king amongst them that might deraine them to battaile, and vnder whose colours they might march against these birdes of a feather, that had so colleagued themselues togither to destroy them.

Who this king should bee, beshackled theyr wits, and layd them a dry ground euery one. No rauening fish they would putte in armes, for feare after he had euerted their foes, and flesht himselfe in bloud, for interchange of diet, hee woulde rauen vp them.

Some politique delegatory Scipio, or witty pated Petito, like the heire of *Laertes per apheresin, Vlysses*, (well knowne vnto them by his prolixious seawandering, and dauncing on their topleſſe tottering hilles) they would single forth, if it might bee, whom they might depose when they list, if he should begin to tyranize, and such a one as of himselfe were able to make a sound partie if all fayled, and bid base to the enemie with his owne kindred and followers.

None woonne the day in this but the Herring, whom al their clamorous suffrages saluted with *Vive le roy*, God saue the King, God saue King, saue only the Playse and the Butte, that made wry mouthes at him

him, and for their mocking haue wry mouthes euer ſince, and the Herring euer ſince weares a coronet on his head, in token that hee is as he is. Which had the worſt end of the ſtaffe in that ſea iourney or canuazado, or whether ſome fowler with his nets (as this hoſt of fethermungers were getting vp to ride double) inuolued or intangled them, or the water foules playde them falſe (as there is no more loue betwixt them, then betwixt ſaylers and land ſouldiours) and threw them off their backs, and lette them drowne when they were launched into the deepe, I leaue to ſome *Alfonſus*) *Poggius* or *Æſope* to vnwrap, for my penne is tired in it: but this is notorious, the Herring from that time to this, hath gone with an army, and neuer ſtirres abroade without it, and when he ſtirs abroad with it, he ſendes out his ſcowts or ſentinels before him, that oftentimes are intercepted, and by theyr parti-coloured liueries deſcried, whom the mariners after they haue tooke, vſe in this ſort: eight or nine times they ſwinge them about the maine maſt, and bid them bring them ſo many laſt of Herrings as they haue ſwinged them times, and that ſhall be theyr ranſome, and ſo throw them into the ſea, againe. King by your leaue, for in your kingſhippe I muſt leaue you, and repeate how from white to redde you camelionized.

It is to bee read, or to bee heard of, howe in the Punieſhip or nonage of Cerdicke ſandes, when the beſt houſes and walles there were of mudde or canuaze, or Poldauies entiltments, a Fiſherman of Yarmouth hauing drawne ſo many herrings hee wiſt not what to do withall, hung the reſidue that he could not ſel nor ſpēd, in the ſooty roofe of his ſhad a drying: or ſay thus, his ſhad was a acbbinet in *decimo ſexto*, builded on foure crutches, and hee had no roome in it, but in that garret or *Excelſis* to lodge them, where if they

were drie, let them bee drie, for in the sea they had drunke too much, and now hee would force them doo penance for it.

The weather was colde, and good fires hee kept, (as fishermen, what hardnesse soeuer they endure at sea, they will make all smoake, but they will make amendes for it when they come to land) and what with his fiering and smoking, or smokie firing in that his narrow lobby, his herrings which were as white as whales bone when hee hung them vp, nowe lookt as red as a lobster. It was foure or fiue dayes before either hee or his wife espied it, & when they espied it, they fell downe on their knees & blessed themselus, & cride, a miracle, a miracle, & with the proclaiming it among their neighbours they could not be content, but to the court the fisherman would, and present it to the King, then lying at *Borrough* Castle two mile off.

Of this *Borrough* Castle, because it is so auncient, and there hath beene a Citie there, I will enter into some more speciall mention. The floud Waueny running through many Townes of hie Suffolke vp to *Bungey*, and from thence incroching neerer and neerer to the sea, with his twining & winding it cuts out an Iland of some amplitude, named Louingland. The head Towne in that Iland is *Leystofe*, in which bee it knowne to all men I was borne, though my father sprang from the *Nashes* of Herefordshire.

The next Towne from *Leystofe* towardes Yarmouth is *Corton*, and next *Gorlston*. More inwardly on the left hande, where Waueny and the riuer Ierus mixe their waters, *Cnoberi vrbs*, the Cittie of Cnober, at this day termed *Burgh* or *Borough* Castle, had his being.

This cittie and castle saith *Bede* and Maister *Camden*, or rather M. *Camden* out of *Bede*, by the woodes about

about it, and the driuing of the ſea vppe to it, was moſt pleaſant. In it one Furſæus a Scot builded a monaſtery, at whoſe perſwaſion Sigebert king of the eaſt Angles, gaue ouer his kingdome and led a monaſticall life there, but forth of that monaſtery hee was haled againſt his will, to incourage his ſubiects in their battaile againſt the Mercians, where he periſhed with them.

Nothing of that Caſtle ſaue tartered ragged walles nowe remaines, framed foure ſquare, and ouergrowne with briars and buſhes, in the ſtubbing vp of which, erſt whiles they digge vppe Romane coynes, and booies and anchors. Well, thither our Fiſherman ſet the beſt legge before, and vnfardled to the King, his whole ſachel of wonders. The King was as ſuperſtitious in worſhipping thoſe miraculous herrings as the fiſherman, licenced him to carry thē vp & downe the realme for ſtrange monſters, giuing to Cerdek ſands (the birth place of ſuch monſtroſities) many priuileges, and in that the quantitie of them that were caught ſo encreaſed, he aſsigned a broken ſluce in the Iland of Louingland, called Herring Fleete, where they ſhoulde disburden and diſcharge their boates of them, and render him cuſtome. Our Herring ſmoker hauing worn his monſters ſtale throughout England, ſpirted ouer ſeas to Rome with a Pedlers packe of thē in the Papall chaire of *Vigilius*, he that firſt inſtituted Saints eeues or Vigils to be faſted. By that time hee came thither, he had but three of his Herrings left, for by the way he fell into the theeuiſh hands of malcontents, and of launceknights, of whom he was not only robbed of all his mony, but was faine to redeeme his life beſides with the better parte of his ambry of burniſht fiſhes

These herrings three he rubbed, and curried ouer

till his armes aked againe, to make them glowe and glare like a Turkie brooch, or a London Vintners ſigne, thicke iagged, and round fringed, with theaming Arſadine, and folding them in a diaper napkin as lilly white as a Ladies marrying ſmocke, to the market ſteade of Rome he was ſo bold as to prefer them, and there on a hie ſtoole, vnbraced and vnlaced them, to any chapmans eie that woulde buye them. The Popes caterer caſting a licorous glaunce that way, aſked what it was he had to ſell: the king of fiſhes hee anſwered: the king of fiſhes replied hee, what is the price of him? A hundred duckats he tolde him: a hundred duckats quoth the Popes caterer, that is a kingly price indeede, it is for no priuate man to deale with him: then hee is for mee ſayde the Fiſherman, and ſo vnſheathed his cuttle-bong, and from the nape of the necke to the taile diſmembred him, and pauncht him vp at a mouthfull. Home went his Beatitudes caterer with a flea in his eare, and diſcourſed to his Holineſſe what had happened. Is it the king of fiſhes? the Pope frowningly ſhooke him vp like a catte in a blanket, and is any man to haue him but I that am king of kings, and lord of lords? Go giue him his price I commaund thee, and lette mee taſte of him incontinently. Backe returned the Caterer like a dogge that had loſt his taile, and powred downe the herringmerchant his hundred ducats for one of thoſe two of the king of fiſhes vnſolde, which then he would not take, but ſtoode vppon twoo hundred. Thereuppon they broke off, the one vrging that he had offered it him ſo before, and the other, that hee might haue tooke him at his proffer, which ſince he refuſed, and now halperd with him: as he eate vp the firſt, ſo would he eate vpp the ſecond, and let Pope or patriarch of Conſtantinople fetch it out of his belly if they could: Hee was as

good

good as his word, and had no ſooner ſpoke the worde, but he did as he ſpoke. With a heauy heart to the pallace the yeoman of the mouth departed, and rehearſed this ſecond il ſucceſſe, wherwith Peters ſucceſſour was ſo in his mulliegrums that he had thought to haue buffeted him, & curſed him with bell book & candle, but he ruled his reaſō, & bade him, thogh it coſt a million, to let him haue that third that reſted behind, and hie him expeditely thither, leſt ſome other ſnatched it vp, and as faſt from thence againe, for hee ſwore by his triple crowne, no crumme of refection woulde he gnaw vpon, till he had ſweetened his lippes with it.

So ſaid, ſo done, thither he flew as ſwift as Mercury, and threw him his two hundred ducats, as hee before demaunded. It would not fadge, for then the market was raiſed to three C. and the Caterer grumbling thereat, the fiſher ſwayne was forward to fettle him to his tooles, and tire vpon it, as on the other two, had not he held his hands, and deſired hym to keep the peace for no mony ſhould part them: with that ſpeech hee was quallified, and purſed the three hundred ducats, and deliuered him the king of fiſhes, teaching hym how to geremumble it, ſawce it, and dreſſe it, and ſo ſent him away a glad man. All the Popes cookes in their white ſleeues and linnen aprons met him middle way, to entertaine and receyue the king of fiſhes, and together by the eares they went, who ſhoulde firſt handle him or touch him: but the clarke of the kichin appeaſed that ſtrife, and would admit none but him ſelfe to haue the ſcorching and carbonadoing of it, and he kiſſed his hand thrice, and made as many *Humbleſſos* ere hee woulde finger it: and ſuch obeyſances performed, he dreſt it as he was enioyned, kneeling on his knes, and mumbling twenty aue Maryes to hymſelfe in the ſacrifizing of it on the coales, that his dili-

diligent seruice in the broyling and combustion of it both to his kingship and to his fatherhood might not seeme vnmeritorious. The fire had not perst it, but it being a sweaty loggerhead greasie sowter, endūgeond in his pocket a twelue month, stunk so ouer the popes pallace, that not a scullion but cryed foh, and those which at the first flocked the fastest about it, now fled the most from it, and sought more to rid theyr hands of it, than before they sought to blesse theyr handes with it. Wyth much stopping of theyr noses, between two dishes they stued it, and serued it vp. It was not come wythin three chambers of the Pope, but he smelt it, and vpon the smelling of it enquiring what it should be that sent forth such a puissant perfume, the standers by declared that is was the king of fishes: I conceyted no lesse sayde the Pope, for lesse than a king he could not be that had so strōng a sent, and if his breath be so strong, what is he hymself? like a great king, like a strong king I will vse hym, let hym be caried backe I say, and my Cardinalls shall fetch hym in with dirge and processions vnder my canopy.

Though they were double and double weary of hym, yet his Edict being a lawe, to the kitchin they returned him, whither by and by the whole Colledge of scarlet Cardinalles, wyth theyr crosiers, theyr censors, their hosts, their *Agnus deies* and crucifixes, flocked togither in heapes as it had beene to the conclaue or a generall counsaile, and the senior Cardinall that stood next in election to bee Pope, heaued him vp from the Dresser with a dirge of *De profundis natus est fex, rex* he should haue sayd, and so haue made true latine, but the spirable odor & pestilent steame ascending from it, put him out of his bias of congruity, & as true as the truest latin of *Priscian* would haue queazened him, like the dampe that tooke both *Bell*

and

and Baram away, and many a woorthy man that day, it hee had not beene protected vnder the Popes canopy, and the other Cardinalles with theyr holi-water sprinkles, quencht his foggy fume and euaporating. About and about the inward and base court they circumducted him, with *Kirielyson* and *Hallelniah*, and the chaunters in their golden copes and white surplesses, chaunted it out aboue *gloria patri*, in prayfing of him, the Organs playde, the Ordonance at the Castle of Saint *Angelos* went off, and all wind instruments blew as loude as the winde in winter, in his passado to the Popes ordinary or dining chamber, where hauing sette him downe, vppon their faces they fell flatte, and lickt euery one his ell of dust, in douking on all foure vnto him.

The busie epitasis of the commedy was, when the dishes were vncouered, and the swarthrutter sowre tooke ayre, for then hee made such an ayre, as *Alcides* himselfe that clensed the stables of *Ageus* nor any hostler was able to endure.

This is once, the Pope it popt vnder boord, and out of his pallace worse it scared him then *Neptunes Phocases*, that scard the horses of *Hippolitus*, or the harpies *Iupiters* dogges sent to vexe *Phineus*; the Cardinalles were at their *ora pro nobis*, and held this suffocation a meete sufferance for so contemning the king of fishes and his subiects, and fleshly surfetting in their carniualles. Negromantick sorcery, negromanticke sorcerie, some euill spirit of an heretique it is, which thus molesteth his Apostoliqueship. The friars and munkes caterwawled from the abbots and priors to the nouices, wherfore *tanquam in circo*, wee will trownse him in a circle, and make him tell what Lanterneman, or groome of Hecates close stoole hee is, that thus nefariously and proditoriously propha-

ning & penetrates our holy fathers noſtrils, what needes there any more ambages, the ringoll or ringed circle was compaſt and chalkt out, and the king of fiſhes by the name of the king of fiſhes, coniured to appeare in the center of it, but *ſurdo cantant abſurdi, ſiue ſurdum, incantant fratres ſordidi*, hee was a king abſolute, and would not be at euery mans cal, & if frier *Pendela* and his fellowes had any thing to ſay to him, in his admiral court of the ſea, let them ſeek him, and neither in Hull, Hell, nor Halifax.

They ſeeing that by theyr charmes and ſpels they could ſpell nothing of him, fell to a more charitable ſuppoſe, that it might bee the diſtreſſed ſoule of ſome king that was drownd, who being long in Purgatorie, and not releeued by the praiers of the church, had leaue in that diſguiſed forme, to haue egreſſe and regreſſe to Rome, to craue theyr beneuolence of dirges, trentals, and ſo foorth, to helpe him onward on his iourney to *Limbo patrum* or *Eliſium*, and becauſe they would not eaſily beleeue what tortures in purgatory hee had ſuſtained, vnleſſe they were eye-witneſſes of them, hee thought to repreſent to all theyr ſences the image and *Idea* of his combuſtion and broyling there, and the horrible ſtinch of his ſins accompanying both vnder his frying and broyling on the coles in the Popes kitchin, & the intollerable ſinel or ſtink he ſent forth vnder either. *Una voce* in this ſplene to Pope *Vigilius* they ran, and craued that this king of fiſhes might firſt haue Chriſtian buriall, next, that hee might haue maſſes ſung for him, and laſt, that for a ſaint hee would canonize him. Al theſe hee graunted, to bee ridde of his filthy redolence, and his chiefe casket wherein he put all his iewelles, hee made the coffin of his encloſure, and for his enſainting, looke the Almanack in the beginning of Aprill,

and

and ſee if yon can finde out ſuch a ſaint as ſaint *Gildarde*, which in honour of this guilded fiſh the Pope ſo enſainted: nor there hee reſted and ſtopt, but in the mitigation of the very embers wheron he was ſindged, that after he was taken of them, fumed moſt fulſomly of his fatty droppings) hee ordained ember weekes in their memory, to be faſted euerlaſtingly.

I had well nie forgot a ſpeciall poynt of my Romiſh hiſtory, & that is how Madam *Celina Cornificia*, one of the curioſeſt curtizans of Rome, when the fame of the king of fiſhes was canon-rored in her eates, ſhee ſent all hir iewells to the iewiſh lumbarde to pawne, to buy and encaptiue him to her trenchour, but her purueyour came a day after the faire, & as he came, ſo hee farde, for not a ſcrap of him but the cobs of the two Herrings the Fiſherman had eaten remained of him, and thoſe Cobbes, rather than hee woulde go home wyth a ſleeueleſſe anſwer, he bought at the rate of foureſcore ducats (they were rich cobbes you muſt rate them) and of them all cobbing countrey chuffes which make their bellies and their bagges theyr Gods are called riche Cobbes. Euery manne will not clappe hands to this ſtale, the Norwichers inprimis, who ſay, the firſt guilding of Herrings was deducted from them: and after this guiſe they tune the accent of theyr ſpeech, how that when Caſtor was Norwich (a Towne twoo mile beyond this Norwich, that is termed to this day Norwich Caſtor, and hauing monuments of a caſtle in it enuironing fifty acres of ground, and ringbolts in the walles whereto ſhips were faſtned) our Norwich now vpon her leggs was a poore fiſher towne, and the ſea ſpawled and ſpringed vp to her common ſtayres in Conſur ſtreete.

All this may paſſe in the Queenes peace, and no mā ſay bo to it: but bawwaw quoth Bagſhaw to that

which drawlacheth behinde, of the firſt taking of herrings there, and currying and guylding them amongſt thē, wherof if they could whiſper to vs any ſimple likelihood, or rawbond carcaſſe of reaſon, more than their imaginary dreame of Guilding croſſe in theyr pariſh of S. Sauiours (now ſtumpt vp by the rootes) ſo named, as they would haue it, of the ſmoaky guilding of herrings there firſt inuented, I could wel haue allowed of, but they muſt bring better cardes ere they winne it from Yarmouth.

As good a toy to mocke an ape was it of hym that ſhewed a country fellow the red ſea, where all the red Herrings were made (as ſome places in the ſea where the ſunne is moſt tranſpercing, and beates wyth his rayes feruenteſt, will looke as red as blood:) and the ieaſt of a Scholler in Cambridge, that ſtanding angling on the towne bridge there, as the country people on the market day paſſed by, ſecretly bayted his hook wyth a red Herring wyth a bell about the necke, and ſo conueying it into the water that no man perceiued it, all on the ſodayn, when he had a competent throng gathered about hym, vp he twicht it agayne, and layd it openly before them, whereat the gaping rurall fooles, driuen into no leſſe admiration than the common people about Londō ſome few yeares ſince were at the bubbling of Moore-ditch, ſware by their chriſtendomes that as many dayes and yeeres as they had liued, they neuer ſawe ſuch a myracle of a red herring taken in the freſh-water before. That greedy ſeagull ignorance is apt to deuoure any thing. For a new Meſſias they are ready to expect of the bedlam hatmakers wife by London bridge, he that proclaymes hymſelfe Elias, and ſayeth he is inſpired wyth mutton and porredge, and with them it is currant, that Don Sebaſtian king of Portugall (ſlayne twenty yeares ſince wyth

Stukely

Stukeley at the battell of Alcazar) is rayſed from the dead like Lazarus, and aliue to be ſeene at Venice. Let them looke to themſelues as they will, for I am theirs to gull them better than euer I haue done, and this I am ſure I haue deſtributed gudgeon dole amongſt them, as Gods plenty as any ſtripling of my ſlender portion of witte farre or neere. They needes will haue it ſo, much good do it them, I can not doe wythall: For if but careleſly betwixt ſleeping and waking I write I knowe not what againſt plebeian Publicans and ſinners (no better than the ſworne brothers of candleſticke turners and tinkers) and leaue ſome termes in ſuſpence that my poſt-haſte want of argent will not giue mee elbowe roome enough to explane or examine as I would, out ſteps me an infant ſquib of the Innes of Court, that hath not halfe greaſed his dining cappe, or ſcarce warmed his Lawyers cuſhion, and he to approue hymſelfe an extrauagant ſtateſman catcheth hold of a ruſh, and abſolutely concludeth, it is meant of the Emperour of Ruſcia, and that it will vtterly marre the traffike into that country if all the Pamphlets bee not called in and ſuppreſſed, wherein that libelling word is mentioned. An other, if but a head or a tayle of any beaſt, he boaſts of in his creſt or his ſcutcheon, be reckoned vp by chaunce in a volume where a man hath iuſt occaſion to reckon vp all beaſts in armory, he ſtrait engageth hymſelfe by the honor of his houſe, and his neuer reculed ſword to threſh downe the hayry roofe of that brayne that ſo ſeditiouſly mutined againſt hym with the mortiferous baſtinado, or caſt ſuche an vncurable Italian trench in his face, as not the baſeſt creeper vpon pattens by the high way ſide, but ſhall abhor him worſe than the carrion of a dead corſe, or a man hanged vp in gibbets.

I will deale more boldly, & yet it ſhall be ſecurelie, and in the way of honeſtie , to a number of Gods fooles, that for their wealth might be deep wiſe men, and ſo foorth (as now a daies in the opinion of the beſt lawyers of England there is no wiſedome without wealth, alleadge what you can to the contrarie of all the beggarly ſages of greece) theſe I ſay out of ſome diſcourſes of mine, which were a mingle mangle cum putre, and I knew not what to make of my ſelfe, haue fiſht out ſuch a deepe politique ſtate meaning as if I had al the ſecrets of court or common-wealth at my fingers endes. Talke I of a beare, O it is ſuch a man that emblazons him in his armes, or of a woolfe, a fox, or a camelion, any lording whom they do not affect, it is meant by. The great potentate ſtirred vppe with thoſe peruerſe applications, not looking into the text it ſelfe, but the ridiculous comment, or if hee lookes into it, followes no other more charitable comment then that, ſtraite thunders out his diſpleaſure, & ſhowres downe the whole tempeſt of his indignation vpon me, and to amend the matter, and fully abſolue himſelfe of this raſh error of miſconſtruing, he commits it ouer to be proſecuted by a worſe miſconſtruer then himſelfe, *vidilicet*, his learned counſaile (God forgiue me if I ſlander them with that title of learned, for generally they are not) and they being compounded of nothing but vociferation and clamour, rage & fly out they care not howe againſt a mans life, his perſon, his parentage, twoo houres before they come to the poynt, little remembring their owne priuy ſcapes with their landreſſes, or their night walkes to Pancredge, togither with the hobnaylde houſes of their carterly anceſtrie from whence they are ſprung, that haue coold plow-iades buttocks time out of minde, with the breath of their whiſtling, and with retailing

their

theyr dung to manure landes, and ſelling ſtrawe and chaffe, ſcracht vp the pence to make them gentlemen. But Lord howe miſerably do theſe Ethnicks when they once march to the purpoſe, ſet words on the tenters, neuer reading to a period (which you ſhal ſcarſe find in thirtie ſheetes of a lawyers declaration) wherby they might comprehende the intire ſence of the writer togither, but diſioynt and teare euery ſillable betwixt their teeth ſeuerally, and if by no meanes they can make it odious, they wil be ſure to bring it in diſgrace by ilfauoured mouthing and miſſounding it. Theſe bee they that vſe mens writings like bruite beaſts, to make them draw which way they liſt, as a principall agent in church controuerſies of this our time complaineth. I haue red a tale of a poore man and an aduocate, which poore man complained to the King of wrong that the aduocate hadde doone him, in taking away his cow. The king made him no anſwere but this, that hee woulde ſende for the aduocate, and heare what hee could ſay. Nay quoth the poore man, if you bee at that paſſe that you wil pawſe to heare what he wil ſay, I haue vtterly loſt my cowe, for hee hath woords inough to make fooles of tenne thouſand. So hee that ſhal haue his lines bandied by our vſuall plodders in Fitzherbart, lette him not care whether they bee right or wrong: for they will writhe and turne them as they liſt, and make the author beleeue he meant that which hee neuer did meane: and for a knitting vp concluſion, his credite is vnrepriueably loſt, that on bare ſuſpitiō in ſuch caſes, ſhal but haue his name controuerted amongeſt thē, & if I ſhould fall into their handes, I would be preſſed to death for obſtinate ſilence, and neuer ſeeke to cleere my ſelfe, for it is in vaine, ſince both they will confound a mans memory wyth their tedious babbling,

and

and in the first three wordes of his Apology with impudent exclamations interrupt him, whenas their mercenary tongues (lie they neuer so lowdly) without checke or controule must haue their free passage for fiue houres together.

I speake of the worser sort, not of the best, whom I holde in high admiration, as well for theyr singular gifts of art and nature, as theyr vntaynted consciences wyth corruption: and from some of them I auowe I haue heard as excellent things flowe, as euer I obserued in Tully or Demosthenes. Those that were present at the arraignmēt of Lopus, (to insist in no other particular) hereof I am sure will beare me record. Latineless dolts saturnine heauy headed blunderers, my inuectiue hath relation, to such as count al Artes puppet-playes, and pretty rattles to please children, in comparison of their confused barbarous lawe, which if it were set downe in any christian language, but the Getan tongue it would neuer grieue a man to studie it.

Neyther *Ouid* nor *Arioste* coulde by any perswasions of their parents be induced to study the Ciuil law for the harshnesse of it, how much more, (had they bin aliue at this day, and borne in our nation) would they haue consented to study this vnciuill Norman hotpotch, this sow of lead, that hath neuer a ring at the end to lift it vp by, is without head or foote, the deformedest monster that may bee. I stand lawing heere what with these lawyers, and selfe-conceited misinterpreters so long, that my redde herring which was hot broyling on the coles, is waxt starke cold for want of blowing. Haue with them for a riddle or two, onely to set their wittes a nibbling, and their iobbernowles a working, and so good night to their segniories, but with this indentment and caution, that though there

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be neither rime nor reaſon in it, (as by my good will there ſhal not) they according to their accuſtomed gentle fauors, whether I wil or no, ſhall ſupply it with either, and runne ouer al the peeres of the land in peeuiſh moralizing and anatomizing it.

There was a Herring, or there was not, for it was but a cropſhin, one of the refuſe ſort of herrings, and this herring or this cropſhin was ſenſed and thurified in the ſmoake, and had got him a ſuit of durance, that it would laſt longer then one of *Erra Paters* Almanacks, or a cunſtables browne bill, onely his head was in his tayle, and that made his breath ſo ſtrong, that no man could abide him. Well, he was a *Triton* of his time, and a ſweete ſinging calander to the ſtate, yet not beloued of the ſhoury *Pleyades* or the *Coloſſus* of the ſunne, howeuer hee thought himſelfe another *tumidus Antimachus*, as compleate an *Adelantado* as hee that is knowne by wearing a cloake of tuftaffatie eighteene yeare, and to Lady *Turbut* there is no demurre but he would needs goe a wooing, and offered her for a dowre whole hecatombs and a twoo-hand-ſword, ſhee ſtarde vpon him with *Megaras* eyes, like *Iris* the meſſenger of *Iuno*, and bad him go eate a fooles head and garlick, for ſhe would none of him, thereuppon particularly ſtrictly and vſually he replied, that though thunder nere lights on *Phœbus* tree, and *Amphion* that worthy muſition, was husband to *Niobe*, and there was no ſuch acceptable incenſe to the heauens as the bloud of a traitour, reuenged hee would bee by one *Chimera* of imagination or other, and hamper and embrake her in thoſe mortal ſtraights for hir diſdain, that in ſpite of diuine ſimmietry & miniature, into her buskie groue ſhee ſhould let him enter, and bid adew ſweete Lord, or the crampe of death ſhould wreſt her heart ſtrings.

This ſpeech was no ſpireable odor to the *Achelons* of her audience, wherefore ſhe charged him by the extreame lineaments of the Erimanthian beare, and by the priuy fiſtula of the *Pierides*, to committe no more ſuch excruciating ſillables to the yeelding ayre, for ſhe would ſooner make her a French hood of a cowſharde, and a gowne of ſpiders webbes, with the ſleeues drawn out with cabbages, then be ſo contaminated any more with his abortiue loathely motiues: With this in an olympick rage, he calles for a cleane ſhirt, and puttes on fiue paire of buskins, and ſeeketh out eloquent *Zenophon*, out of whoſe mouth the Muſes ſpake, to declaime in open Courte againſt her.

The action is entred, the complaint of her wintered browes preſented, of a violent rape of his heart ſhee is indited and conuinced. The circumſtaunce that followes you may imagine or ſuppoſe: or without ſuppoſing or imagining, I will tell you, the nutte was crackt, the ſtrife diſcuſt, and the center of her heart layd open, and to this wild of ſorrowes and excruciament ſhe was confined, either to bee helde a flat thornebacke, or ſharpe pricking dog-fiſh to the weale publique, or ſeale her ſelfe cloſe to his ſeale-skind riueld lippes, and ſuffer her ſelfe as a ſpirit to be coniured into the helliſh circle of his embraces.

It would not be good cropſhin, Madam *Turbut* could not away with ſuch a drie withered carkaſſe to lie by her, *currat rex, viuat lex*, come what would, ſhee would none of him, wherfore as a poyſoner of mankind with her beautie, ſhe was adiudged to be boyled to death in hot ſcalding water, and to haue her poſterity throughly ſawſt and ſowſt and pickled in barrelles of briniſh teares, ſo ruthfull and dolorous, that

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the inhabitants on *Bosphoros* should bee laxatiue in deploring it. O for a Legion of mice-eyed decipherers and calculaters vppon characters, now to augurate what I meane by this; the diuell, if it stood vpon his saluation cannot do it, much lesse petty diuels, and cruell Rhadamants vppon earth, (elsse where in France and Italy *subintelligitur*, and not in our aspicious Iland climate) men that haue no meanes to purchase credit with theyr Prince, but by putting him still in feare, and beating into his opinion, that they are the onely preseruers of his life, in sitting vp night and day in sifting out treasons, whē they are the most traytours themselues, to his life, health, and quiet, in continual commacerating him with dread and terror, when but to gette a pension, or bring him in theyr debt next to God, for vpholding his vital breath, it is neither so, nor so, but some foole, some drunken man, some madde man in an intoxicate humour hath vttered hee knewe not what, and they beeing starued for intelligence, or want of employment, take hold of it with tooth and nayle, and in spite of all the wayters, will violently breake into the kings chamber, and awake him at midnight to reueale it.

Say that a more piercing Linceus sight should diue into the intrailes of this insinuating parasites knauery; to the strapado and the stretching torture, hee will referre it for triall, and there eyther teare him limbe from limbe, but hee will extract some capitall confession from him, that shal concerne the Princes life, and his crowne and dignity, and bring himselfe in such necessary request about his prince, as hee may holde him for his right hand, and the onely staffe of his royalty, and thinke hee were vndoone if hee were without him, when the poore fellow so tyrannonsly handled, would rather in that extremitie of

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conuulsion, confesse hee crucified Iesus Christ, then abide it any longer. I am not against it, (for God forbid I should) that it behooues all loyall true subiects to bee vigilant and iealous for their princes safetie, and certaine too iealous and vigilant of it they cannot bee, if they bee good princes that raigne ouer them, nor vse too many meanes of disquisition by tortures, or otherwise to discouer treasons pretended against them, but vppon the least wagging of a straw to put them in feare where no feare is, and make a hurliburlie in the realme vpon had I wist, not so much for any zeale or loue to their princes, or tender care of theyr preseruation, as to picke thankes, and curry a little fauour, that thereby they may lay the foundation to build a sute on, or crosse some great enemie they haue, I will maintaine it is most lewd and detestable. I accuse none, but such there haue beene belonging to Princes in former ages, if there bee not at this houre.

Stay, let me looke about, where am I in my text, or out of it? not out for a groate: out for an angell, nay I'le lay no wagers, for nowe I perponder more sadlie vppon it, I thinke I am out indeede. Beare with it, it was but a pretty parenthesis of Princes and theyr parasites, which shall doo you no harme. for I will cloy you with Herring before wee part.

Will you haue the other riddle of the cropshin to make vppe the payre that I promised you, you shall you shall (not haue it I meane) but beare with mee, for I cannot spare it, and I perswade my selfe you will be well contented to spare it, except it were better then the former, and yet I pray you what fault can you finde with the former, hath it any more sence in it then it should haue? is it not right of the merry cobblers cutte in that witty Play of, *the Case is altered.*

I

I will ſpeake a proude word (though it may bee counted arrogancy in me to prayſe mine owne ſtuffe) if it bee not more abſurde then *Philips his Venus, the white Tragedie, or the greene Knight*, or I can tell what Engliſh to make of it in part or in whole, I wiſh in the fouleſt weather that is, to goe in cutte ſpaniſh leather ſhooes, or ſilke ſtockings, or to ſtand barehead to a nobleman, and not gette of him the price of a periwig to couer my bare crown, no not ſo much as a pipe of Tabacco to rayſe my ſpirites, and warme my braine.

My readers peraduenture may ſee more into it then I can, for in compariſon of them, in whatſoeuer I ſet forth, I am *Bernardus non vidit omnia*, as blinde as blinde Bayard, and haue the eyes of a beetle, nothing from them is obſcure, they being quicker ſighted then the ſunne, to ſpie in his beames the moates that are not, and able to tranſforme the lighteſt murmuring gnat to an Elephant. Carpe or deſcant they as they⁊ ſpleene mooues them, my ſpleene mooues me not to file my handes with them, but to fall a craſh more to the redde herring.

Howe many bee there in the worlde that childiſhly ⁊ deprauе Alchumy, and cannot ſpell the firſt letter of it; in the black booke of which ignorant band of ſcorners, it may be I am ſcorde vp with the higheſt, if I be, I muſt intreate them to wipe me out, for the red herring hath lately beene my ghoſtly father to conuert me to their fayth: the *probatum eſt* of whoſe tranſfiguration *ex Luna in Solem*, from his duskie tinne hew into a perfit golden blandiſhment, onely by the foggy ſmoake of the groſſeſt kind of fire that is, illumines my ſpeculatiue ſoule, what muche more, not ſophiſticate or ſuperficiall effects, but abſolute eſſentiall alterations of mettalles there may bee

made by an artificiall repurified flame, and diuerſe other helpes of nature added beſides.

Cornelius Agrippa maketh mention of ſome Philoſophers that held the skinne of the ſheepe that bare the golden fleece, to be nothing but a booke of Alcumy written vpon it, ſo if wee ſhould examine matters to the proofe, wee ſhoulde finde the redde Herrings skinne to be little leſſe : the accidens of Alcumy I will ſweare it is, be it but for that experiment of his ſmoaking alone, and which is a ſecret that all Tapſters will curſe mee for blabbing, in his skinne there is plaine witchcraft, for doe but rubbe a kanne or quarte pot round about the mouth wyth it, let the cunningeſt lickeſpiggot ſwelt his heart out, the beere ſhal neuer foame or froath in the cupp, whereby to deceyue men of their meaſure, but be as ſetled as if it ſtoode al night.

Next, to draw on hounds to a ſent, to a redde herring skinne there is nothing comparable. The round or cobbe of it dride and beaten to powlder is *ipſe ille* agaynſt the ſtone: and of the whole body of it ſelfe, the fineſt Ladies beyond ſeas frame their kickſhawes.

The rebel Iacke Cade was the firſt that deuiſed to put redde herrings in cades, and from hym they haue their name. Nowe as wee call it the ſwinging of herrings when hee cade them, ſo in a halter was hee ſwung, and truſſed vppe as hard and round as any cade of herring he truſſed vppe in his tyme, and perhappes of his being ſo ſwung and truſſed vp, hauyng firſt found out the tricke to cade herring', they woulde ſo much honour him in his death, as not onely to call it ſwinging, but cading of herring alſo. If the text will beare this, we wil force it to beare more, but it ſhall be but the weight of a ſtrawe, or the weight of *Iacke Straw* more, who with the ſame *Græca fide* I marted

vnto

vnto you the former, was the firſt that putte the redde herring in ſtraw ouer head and eares like beggars, & the Fiſhermen vpon that Iacke ſtrawd him euer after: & ſome, for he was ſo begarly a knaue that chalenged to be a gentleman, and had no witte nor wealth but what hee got by the warme wrapping vp of herring, raiſed this Prouerbe of him, *Gentleman Iacke Herring that puttes his breeches on his head for want of wearing.* Other diſgraceful prouerbes of the herring there be, as, *Nere a barrell better herring : Neither fleſh nor fiſh, nor good red herring,* which thoſe that haue bitten with ill bargaines of either ſort, haue dribd forth in reuenge, and yet not haue them from Yarmouth, many coaſt towns beſides it, enterpriſing to curry ſalt and pickle vp herrings, but marre them, becauſe they want the right feate how to ſalt and ſeaſon them. So I coulde plucke a crowe wyth Poet *Martiall* for calling it *putre halec*, the ſcauld rotten herring, but he meant that of the fat reaſty Scottiſh herrings, which will endure no ſalt, and in one moneth (beſtow what coſt on them you wil) waxe raniſh if they be kept, whereas our embarreld white herrings, flouriſhing with the ſtately brand of Yarmouth vpon them, *ſcilicet* the three halfe Lions and the three halfe fiſhes with the crowne ouer the head, laſt in long voyages, better than the redde herring, and not onely are famous at *Roan, Paris, Diepe, Caue* (whereof the firſt, which is *Roan*, ſetteth all the high countries of Fraunce with it, and *Diepe* which is the laſt ſaue one, victualles all *Picardy* with it) but heere at home is made account of like a Marqueſſe, and receiued at court right ſolemnly, I care not much if I rehearſe to you the maner, and that is thus.

Euery yeare about Lent tide, the ſherifes of Norwich bake certayne herring pies (foure and twenty as

I take it) and ſend them as a homage to the Lorde of Caſter hard by there, for lands that they hold of him, who preſently vpō the like tenure, in bouncing hampers couered ouer with his cloth of armes, ſees them conueyed to the court in the beſt equipage: at court when they are arriued, his man rudely enters not at firſt, but knocketh very ciuilly, and then officers come and fetch him in with torch light, where hauing diſfraughted and vnloaded his luggage, to ſupper he ſets him downe like a Lord, with his waxe lights before him, and hath his meſſe of meate allowed him with the largeſt, & his horſes (*quatenus* horſes) are prouendred as epicurely: after this, ſome foure marke fee towardes his charges is tendred him, and hee iogges home againe merrily.

A white pickled herring? why it is meate for a Prince, *Haunce Vanderuecke* of Roterdame (as a dutch Poſt informed me) in bare pickled herring layd out twenty thouſand pound the laſt fiſhing: hee had loſt his drinking belike, and thought to ſtore himſelfe of medicines enow to recouer it.

Noble Cæſarean Charlemaine herring, *Plinie* and *Geſner* were too blame they ſluberd thee ouer ſo negligently. I do not ſee why any man ſhould enuy thee, ſince thou art none of theſe *lurcones* or *epulones*, glutōs or fleſhpots of Egypt (as one that writes of the chriſtians captiuity vnder the Turke enſtileth vs Engliſh mē) nor liueſt thou by the vnlyuing or euiſcerating of others, as moſt fiſhes do, or by any extraordinary filth whatſoeuer, but as the Cameleon liueth by the ayre, and the Salamander by the fire, ſo onely by the water arte thou nouriſhed, and nought elſe, and muſt ſwim as wel dead as aliue.

Be of good cheere my weary Readers, for I haue eſpied land, as *Diogenes* ſaid to his weary Schollers whē he

he had read to awaſte leafe. Fiſhermen I hope wil not finde fault with me for fiſhing before the nette, or making all fiſh that comes to the net in this hiſtory, ſince as the Athenians bragged they were the firſt that inuented wraſtling: and one *Ericthonius* amongſt them that he was the firſt that ioyned horſes in collar couples for drawing, ſo I am the firſt that euer ſette quill to paper in prayſe of any fiſh or fiſherman.

Not one of the Poets aforetime could giue you or the ſea a good word: *Ouid* ſayth, *Nimium ne credite ponto*, the ſea is a ſlippery companion take heed how you truſt him: And further, *Periurij pœnas repetit ille locus*, it is a place like Hel, good for nothing but to puniſh periurers; with innumerable inuectiues more againſt it throughout in euery booke.

Plautus in his *Rudens* bringeth in fiſhermen cowthring and quaking dung wet after a ſtorme, and complaining their miſerable caſe in this forme, *Captamus cibum è mari. ſi euentus non venit, neque quicquam captum eſt pſcium, ſalſi lautiq; domum redimus clanculum, dormimus inanatum*: All the meate that we eate we catch out of the ſea, and if there wee miſſe, wel waſhed and ſalted, wee ſneake home to bed ſupperleſſe: and vpon the taile of it hee brings in a paraſite that flowteth and bourdeth them thus: *Heus vos famelica gens hominum vt viuitis vt peritis?* hough you hungerſtarued gubbins or offalles of men, how thriue you, howe periſh you, and they cringing in their neckes, like rattes, ſmothered in the holde, poorely replicated, *Viuimus fame, ſpeq; ſitiq;*, with hunger, and hope, and thirſt wee content our ſelues. If you would not miſconceit that I ſtudiouſly intended your defamation, you ſhoulde haue thicke haileſhot of theſe.

Not the lowſie riddle wherewith fiſhermen conſtrayned (ſome ſay) *Homer*, ſome ſay another Philo-

ſopher to drowne hymſelfe, becauſe he could not expound it, but ſhould be dreſſed and ſet before you *ſupernagulum*, with eight ſcore more galliarde croſſe-poynts, and kickſhiwinſhes of giddy eare-wig brains, were it not I thought you too fretfull and chollericke with feeding altogether on ſalt meates, to haue the ſecrets of your trade in publique diſplayed. Will this appeaſe you, that you are the predeceſſors of the Apoſtles, who were poorer Fiſhermen than you, that for your ſeeing wonders in the deepe, you may be the ſonnes and heires of the Prophet Ionas, that you are all Caualiers and Gentlemen ſince the king of fiſhes vouchſafed you for his ſubiects, that for your ſelling ſmoake you may be courtiers, for your keeping of faſting dayes Friar Obſeruants, and laſtly, that looke in what Towne there is the ſigne of the three mariners, the huffe-cappeſt drink in that houſe you ſhal be ſure of alwayes.

No more can I do for you than I haue done, were you my god-children euery one: God make you his children and keepe you from the Dunkerks, and then I doubt not but when you are driuen into harbour by foule weather, the kannes ſhall walke to the health of *Naſhes* Lenten-ſtuffe, and the praiſe of the redde Herring, and euen thoſe that attend vppon the pitch-kettle, will bee druncke to my good fortunes, and recommendums. One boone you muſt not refuſe mee in, (if you be *boni ſocij* and ſweete Oliuers) that you let not your ruſtie ſwordes ſleepe in their ſcabberds, but laſh them out in my quarrell as hotely, as if you were to cut cables, or hew the main maſt ouer boord, when you heare mee mangled and torne in mennes mouthes about this playing with a ſhettlecocke, or toſsing empty bladders in the ayre.

Alas poore hungerſtarued Muſe, wee ſhall haue ſome

ſome ſpawne of a gooſe-quill or ouer worne pander quirking and girding, was it ſo hard driuen that it had nothing to feede vpon but a redde herring? another drudge of the pudding houſe (all whoſe lawfull meanes to liue by throughout the whole yeare will ſcarce purchaſe him a redde herring) ſayes I might as well haue writte of a dogges turde (in his teeth ſurreuerence.) But let none of theſe ſcumme of the ſubvrbs, be too vineger tarte with mee; for if they bee, Ile take mine oath vppon a redde herring and eate it, to prooue that their fathers, their grandfathers, and their great grandfathers, or any other of their kinne, were ſcullions diſhwaſh, & durty draffe and ſwil ſet againſt a redde herring. The puiſſant red herring, the golden *Heſperides* red herring, the *Meonian* red herring, the red herring of red Herrings Hal, euery pregnant peculiar of whoſe reſplendent lande and honour, to delineate and adumbrate to the ample life, were a woorke that would drinke drie foureſcore and eighteene Caſtalian fountaines of eloquence, conſume another *Athens* of facunditie, and abate the haughtieſt poeticall fury twixt this and the burning Zone, and the tropike of Cancer. My conceit is caſt into a ſweating ſickeneſſe, with aſcending theſe few ſteps of his renowne: into what a hote broyling ſaint Laurence feuer would it relapſe then, ſhould I ſpend the whole bagge of my winde in climbing vp to the lofty mountaine creaſt of his trophees. But no more winde will I ſpend on it but this, Saint Denis for Fraunce, Saint Iames for Spaine, Saint Patrike for Ireland, Saint George for England, and the red Herring for Yarmouth.

(*.*)

FINIS.